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AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH

SOCCER

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GUILTY: SOUTH MELBOURNE & SYDNEY UNITED

AFTER THE ALTERCATION ON MAY 18 AT PARRAMATTA STADIUM BETWEEN SUPPORTERS OF SOUTH MELBOURNE AND SYDNEY UNITED, SOCCER AUSTRALIA SET UP AN INQUIRY.

The game in question was the 96/97 Ericsson Cup Major Semi Final, with both clubs being charged — courtesy of their 'spectators' — with bringing the game into disrepute.

On Friday last week Soccer Australia issued a media release confirming the charges had been proven. Additionally it found Zeljko Kalac had brought the game into disrepute, however a similar charge against teammate Paul Bilokapic was dismissed.

The findings have been referred to the Board of Soccer Australia to consider what penalties to impose. In a surprise move, David Hill has recommended that the Board should give each of the clubs, and Kalac, an opportunity to make submissions regarding the impending punishment.

The Commissioners are expected to decide their punitive measures, if any, this Saturday.

OLYMPIC IN A RUSH?

UTS Olympic are reported to be seeking an overseas player to join them for a stint in the Ericsson Cup. The right player would boost their attendances, broaden the club's appeal and hopefully assist them to mount a challenge for the championship.

WHILE coach Geoff Harcombe is in England he is speaking to the former Liverpool great Ian Rush.

The Welsh international spent many years at Liverpool, during which he was in the winning Reds side when they took three FA Cups, five League Championships, five League Cups and one European Cup.

He is a prolific scorer, having claimed 363 goals in nearly 700 games. Most of these were with Liverpool, after he started his career as an apprentice with Chester City.

Italian giants Juventus signed him for their Serie A campaign in the 1987/88 season, however, he returned to Anfield after one term in Turin.

Last season he left Anfield for Elland Road at Leeds United, although he failed to find the net with any consistency under George Graham's side.

Maybe a move to play the World Game in the increasingly professional Ericsson Cup this summer could revive Rush's career?

When in the national league, Blacktown City brought over English superstar Kevin Keegan for two guest games. Crowds were boosted so much so that one game was moved to Marconi Stadium and even then the gates had to be closed! The publicity generated for the club — and the local game — was beyond anything that had happened before, or has happened since.

Could this 'rush' for tickets eventuate for UTS Olympic too?

Minor premiership wide open in NSW Super League — PAGE 9

Brisbane Melbourne or Sydney for Australia's final hurdle — PAGE 2

Argentina nose ahead in SOUTH AMERICAN GROUP — PAGE 20

Let the grass grow

By BOB BROOKS

The next day after John Coates of the Sydney Organising Committee for the Olympic Games (SOCOG) made the announcement about the grounds selected so far for the Football Tournament, he said something equally significant: This time it was in an interview on ABC Radio Grandstand, a week ago last Saturday.

FIFA wants to be assured that the playing surfaces, for potentially the biggest money spinner of the whole Games, are in excellent condition. When questioned on how this will be achieved Coates said that the other codes sharing particular stadiums, would have to refrain from using them for an agreed period.

Coates suggested six weeks but one thing is missing in his answer and that is that period of time is still winter. Grass does not grow easily, if at all, until the middle of September, when the Games start.

The cold weather is almost as extreme in Canberra, in August, as any month in winter. Bruce Stadium is shared with rugby league. That code chops the playing surface around. Added to which finals time will be starting about the time the Games kick off.

It is proposed that both aussie rules and rugby league use Docklands. Again grass doesn't grow in winter in Melbourne. Finals will traditionally be happening in both those codes. A six week reprieve for the playing surface is inadequate. The Sydney Football Stadium is used by both rugby codes. The potential for that being a real mess come September 15, 2000 is very high.

Suncorp Stadium is currently used by a league team which is unlikely to exist within the next twelve months. They attracted a miserable 2350 spectators to their game on the weekend.

There is one consolation and that is Hindmarsh Stadium. It is to be purely for the World Game. 25,000 all seated patrons may enjoy the best games of the Football Tournament.

There must be answers in order to present the best possible surface for the beautiful game, as Pele describes it. Let us examine a few possibilities.

The extreme case, and most unlikely. No games at all on the shared stadiums in 2000, until the Football Tournament. This is not financially acceptable because all three affected venues, Docklands, Bruce and SFS need guaranteed income to keep them operational.

Games to cease on the three venues by the end of June, giving eleven weeks to prepare the surfraces. Now this could be done. In Melbourne there are other grounds for aussie rules to be played. Canberra could have no more home games after that date. This could certainly be the arrangement in Sydney with the Football Stadium.

The two warring factions in rugby league will probably sign a peace treaty before 2000, although the way their crowds are evaporating, there could be more players than spectators by then.

Both rules and league should move their respective Finals series into October, surely this is not too much to ask.

Maybe the title of Terry Venables' first book will come into play, who knows.

Oz Tel's first book? Oh yes, 'They Used to Play on Grass'.

Final steps to France 98 revealed

Australia will play the 'fourth best' Asian Confederation nation in a home and away series in November. The Socceroos will play the away leg on Saturday November 22. The return takes place one week later.

As yet, Soccer Australia has still to decide where the return leg will be played.

Although Sydney has traditionally been the home of the most important games played by the Socceroos, other locations must be considered.

Suncorp Stadium has a similar capacity to the Sydney Football Stadium, however the higher temperatures of Brisbane could go against the northern hemisphere based Australians.

Knowing Victoria, they will be bidding to grab the game for the Melbourne Cricket Ground. Yes it can accommodate 90,000, but it would be similar to watching a snooker match from the stands of the SFS.

Wherever the venue it will be a full house, of that there is no doubt.

Late last week it was reported that putting the game in Brisbane was being considered by Soccer Australia. The success of the rugby union International at the MCG last Saturday night must be an inspiration for Premier Jeff Kennett and attractive to David Hill.

Below is a table which illustrates the capacities and gate receipt potential of the MCG, SFS and Suncorp.

	MCG	SFS	SUNCORP
Capacity	100, 000	43,000	40,000
Gate receipts	$4 million	$1.3 million	$1.1 million
All-seater?	Yes	Yes	No, about 36,000 are seats.

Additionally, the Victorian government promised the ARU that they would compensate them for the 24,000 seats taken by Members. There are 14,000 Members' seats at the SFS.

Asian Groups Drawn

THE draw for the Second Round qualifiers in Asia has been made. There are two groups of five; each nation will meet the other teams in their group on a home-and-away basis.

The winners of each group progress directly to France. The second placed teams in each group then play off — on neutral ground —in a two match series. That winner also goes on to France 98.

The loser of this game will meet Australia to fight out the last spot.

The Asian Group matches will start about Friday September 12 and must be completed by Sunday November 9.

The play-off series, between the second placed teams, has to be over by November 15. This is a very tight schedule and could be to Australia's advantage.

Australia moved up two positions to 31 in the July Rankings.

Terry Venables: Now knows when he has to prepare his Socceroos for their big test.

Based on current FIFA Ranking, Australia should meet Kuwait, China, Iran or UAE, yet international matches have a strange way of going against form.

The two groups and their current FIFA Ranking are:

Group A	Group B
Saudi Arabia (33)	Japan (17)
Kuwait (52)	South Korea (34)
China (56)	United Arab Emirates (60)
Iran (57)	Uzkezistan (83)
Qatar (81)	Kazakhstan (122)

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World Cup Update

Results, Fixtures, Tables...

EUROPE

(15 teams qualify)
(France qualify as hosts)
(9 group winners and best runner up qualify directly) — the best ruuner up will be the team which tops a table of the 9 runners up, determined by the following :

1. Points gained in matches against the teams coming top, third and fourth in respective groups.
2. Goal difference in these games.
3. Goals scored in these games
4. Goals scored in away games
5. Should there be the need, play off game on neutral ground October 19 1997.

(8 other runners up enter home and away play offs; matches drawn by lots).

Group 1 (Greece, Denmark, Croatia, Bosnia, Slovenia)

24/4/96	Greece - Slovenia	2-0
1/9/96	Greece - Bosnia	3-0
1/9/96	Slovenia - Denmark	0-2
9/10/96	Denmark - Greece	2-1
9/10/96	Bosnia - Croatia	1-4
10/11/96	Slovenia - Bosnia	1-2
10/11/96	Croatia - Greece	1-1
29/3/97	Croatia - Denmark	1-1
2/4/97	Croatia - Slovenia	3-3
2/4/97	Bosnia - Greece	0-1
30/4/97	Denmark - Slovenia	4-0
30/4/97	Greece - Croatia	0-1
8/6/97	Denmark - Bosnia	2-0
20/8/97	Bosnia - Denmark	
6/9/97	Croatia - Bosnia	
6-7/9/97	Slovenia - Greece	
10/9/97	Denmark- Croatia	
10/9/97	Bosnia - Slovenia	
11/10/97	Greece - Denmark	
11/10/97	Slovenia - Croatia	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Denmark	5	4	1	0	11	2	13
Greece	6	3	1	2	8	4	10
Croatia	5	2	3	0	10	5	9
Bosnia	5	1	0	4	3	11	3
Slovenia	5	0	1	4	4	13	1

Group 2 (England, Italy, Poland, Georgia, Moldova)

1/9/96	Moldova - England	0-3
5/10/96	Moldova - Italy	1-3
9/10/96	England - Poland	2-1
9/10/96	Italy - Georgia	1-0
9/11/96	Georgia - England	0-2
10/11/96	Poland - Moldova	2-1
12/2/96	England - Italy	0-1
29/3/96	Italy - Moldova	3-0
2/4/97	Poland - Italy	0-0
30/4/97	England - Georgia	2-0
30/4/97	Italy - Poland	3-0
31/5/97	Poland - England	0-2
7/6/97	Georgia - Moldova	2-0
14/6/97	Poland - Georgia	4-1
10/9/97	England - Moldova	
10/9/97	Georgia - Italy	
24/9/97	Moldova - Georgia	
7/10/97	Moldova - Poland	
11/10/97	Italy - England	
11/10/97	Georgia - Poland	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Italy	6	5	1	0	11	1	16
England	6	5	0	1	11	2	15
Poland	6	2	1	3	7	9	7
Georgia	5	1	0	4	3	9	3
Moldova	5	0	0	5	2	13	0

Group 3 (Norway, Hungary, Switzerland, Azerbaijan, Finland)

2/6/96	Norway - Azerbaijan	5-0
31/8/96	Azerbaijan - Switzerland	1-0
1/9/96	Hungary - Finland	1-0
6/10/96	Finland - Switzerland	2-3
9/10/96	Norway - Hungary	3-0
10/11/96	Switzerland - Norway	0-1
10/11/96	Azerbaijan - Hungary	0-3
2/4/97	Azerbaijan - Finland	1-2
30/4/97	Norway - Finland	1-1
30/4/97	Switzerland - Hungary	1-0
8/6/97	Finland - Azerbaijan	3-0
8/6/97	Hungary - Norway	1-1
20/8/97	Finland - Norway	
20/8/97	Hungary - Switzerland	
6/9/97	Switzerland - Finalnd	
6/9/97	Azerbaijan - Norway	
10/9/97	Hungary - Azerbaijan	
10/9/97	Norway - Switzerland	
11/10/97	Finland - Hungary	
11/10/97	Switzerland - Azerbaijan	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Norway	5	3	2	0	11	2	11
Finland	5	2	1	2	8	6	7
Hungary	5	2	1	2	5	5	7
Switzerland	4	2	0	2	4	4	6
Azerbaijan	5	1	0	4	2	13	3

Group 4 (Scotland, Austria, Sweden, Estonia, Belarus, Latvia)

1/6/96	Sweden - Belarus	5-1
31/8/96	Austria - Scotland	0-0
31/8/96	Belarus - Estonia	1-0
1/9/96	Latvia - Sweden	1-2
5/10/96	Estonia - Belarus	1-0
5/10/96	Latvia - Scotland	0-2
9/10/96	Sweden - Austria	0-1
9/10/96	Belarus - Latvia	1-1
9/11/96	Austria - Latvia	2-1
10/11/96	Scotland - Sweden	1-0
11/2/97	Estonia - Scotland	0-0
29/3/97	Scotland - Estonia	2-0
2/4/97	Scotland - Austria	2-0
30/4/97	Austria - Estonia	2-0
30/4/97	Sweden - Scotland	2-1
30/4/97	Latvia - Belarus	2-0
18/5/97	Estonia - Latvia	1-3
8/6/97	Estonia - Sweden	2-3
8/6/97	Belarus - Scotland	0-1
8/6/97	Latvia - Austria	1-3
20/8/97	Estonia - Austria	
20/8/97	Belarus - Sweden	
6/9/97	Austria - Sweden	
6/9/97	Scotland - Belarus	
6/9/97	Latvia - Estonia	
10/9/97	Sweden - Latvia	
10/9/97	Belarus - Austria	
11/10/97	Austria - Belarus	
11/10/97	Scotland - Latvia	
11/10/97	Sweden - Estonia	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Scotland	8	5	2	1	9	2	17
Austria	6	4	1	1	8	4	13
Sweden	6	4	0	2	12	7	12
Latvia	7	2	1	4	9	11	7
Estonia	7	1	1	5	4	11	4
Belarus	6	1	1	4	3	10	4

Group 5 (Russia, Israel, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Luxembourg)

1/9/96	Israel - Bulgaria	2-1
1/9/96	Russia - Cyprus	4-0
8/10/96	Luxembourg - Bulgaria	1-2
9/10/96	Israel - Russia	1-1
10/11/96	Cyprus - Israel	2-0
10/11/96	Luxembourg - Russia	0-4
14/12/96	Cyprus - Bulgaria	1-3
15/12/96	Israel - Luxembourg	1-0
29/3/97	Cyprus - Russia	1-1
30/3/97	Luxembourg - Israel	0-3
2/4/97	Bulgaria - Cyprus	4-1
30/4/97	Israel - Cyprus	2-0
30/4/97	Russia - Luxembourg	3-0
8/6/97	Bulgaria - Luxembourg	4-0
8/6/97	Russia - Israel	2-0
20/8/97	Bulgaria - Israel	
7/9/97	Luxembourg - Cyprus	
10/9/97	Bulgaria - Russia	
11/10/97	Cyprus - Luxembourg	
11/10/97	Russia - Bulgaria	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Russia	6	4	2	0	15	2	14
Israel	7	4	1	2	9	6	13
Bulgaria	5	4	0	1	14	5	12
Cyprus	6	1	1	4	5	14	4
Luxembourg	6	0	0	6	1	17	0

Group 6 (Spain, Yugoslavia, Slovakia, Czech Rep., Faroe Is., Malta)

24/4/96	Yugoslavia - Faroe Islands	3-1
2/6/96	Yugoslavia - Malta	6-0
31/8/96	Faroe Islands - Slovakia	1-2
4/9/96	Faroe Islands - Spain	2-6
18/9/96	Czech Republic - Malta	6-0
22/9/96	Slovakia - Malta	6-0
6/10/96	Faroe Islands - Yugoslavia	1-8
9/10/96	Czech Republic - Spain	0-0
23/10/96	Slovakia - Faroe Islands	3-0
10/11/96	Yugoslavia - Czech Republic	1-0
13/11/96	Spain - Slovakia	4-1
14/12/96	Spain - Yugoslavia	2-0
18/12/96	Malta - Spain	0-3
12/2/97	Spain - Malta	4-0
31/3/97	Malta - Slovakia	0-2
2/4/97	Czech Republic - Yugoslavia	1-2
30/4/97	Malta - Faroe Islands	1-2
30/4/97	Yugoslavia - Spain	1-1
21/5/97	Slovakia - Czech Republic	1-3
8/6/97	Spain - Czech Republic	1-0
8/6/97	Yugoslavia - Slovakia	2-0
8/6/97	Faroe Islands - Malta	2-1
20/8/97	Czech Republic - Faroe Islands	
6/9/97	Faroe Islands - Czech Republic	
10/9/97	Slovakia - Yugoslavia	
24/9/97	Malta - Czech Republic	
24/9/97	Slovakia - Spain	
11/10/97	Malta - Yugoslavia	
11/10/97	Spain - Faroe Islands	
11/10/97	Czech Republic - Slovakia	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Spain	8	6	2	0	21	4	20
Yugoslavia	8	6	1	1	23	6	19
Slovakia	7	4	0	3	15	10	12
Czech Republic	6	2	1	3	7	4	7
Faroe Islands	7	2	0	5	9	24	6
Malta	8	0	0	8	2	31	0

Group 7 (Holland, Wales, Belgium, Turkey, San Marino)

2/6/96	San Marino - Wales	0-5
31/8/96	Belgium - Turkey	2-1
31/8/96	Wales - San Marino	6-0
5/10/96	Wales - Holland	1-3
9/10/96	San Marino - Belgium	0-3
9/11/96	Holland - Wales	7-1
10/11/96	Turkey - San Marino	7-0
14/12/96	Belgium - Holland	0-3

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Paolo Maldini: On his way to WC 98, a unique father and son combination.

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AUSTRALIAN NEWS

OLYROOS ON AUSTRALIAN EAST COAST TOUR

By BOB BROOKS

Raul Blanco, the Olympic Football coach for Australia, has a group of players under his charge as they undertake an east coast tour of this country.

Coffs Harbour, Toowoomba, Brisbane, Rockhampton, Townsville, Mareeba and Cairns are all included in the extensive itinerary, in which the team is scheduled to play nine games. The tour began last Thursday.

As hosts of the 2000 Games, Australia automatically qualify for the Men's and Women's Football Tournaments. It is a golden opportunity for Australia to shine in the most watched sport at the Olympic Games.

The attendance figures for the Football, since 1982 in Los Angeles, have been the highest, by a large percentage, of all Olympic Sports.

The Men's Semi Finals in Los Angeles and the Women's Tournament Final in Atlanta were both attended by huge crowds.

At the Atlanta Games more than 1,300,000 spectators went along to the Football Tournament. This, in a country which claims gridiron and baseball as their number one sports.

The Women's Final attracted 78,000. Those fans were probably surprised by the standard displayed, but were boosted by the fact that the USA were in the Final.

The Men were watched by around 83,000, as Nigeria shocked Brazil, to the delight of all true aficionados of the game.

In Barcelona '92, Australia's Men reached the Semi Finals, which they lost — yet they still received a bronze medal. Ned Zelic was just one of a number of Aussies who paraded their silky skills in that memorable tournament.

Newcastle Topper Breakers' teenage goalkeeper, Brad Swancott, has been called to join the present tour. This is rapid promotion for the youngster, who made his Ericsson Cup debut during last season.

Brad's career in the menswear business will be put on hold for the time being.

Towards 2000

MANY of the players on the tour were recently in Malaysia with the Young Socceroos. They are just coming off a two game series with South Africa's Under 23 squad.

The first game in Canberra resulted in a 2-0 win for Australia but South Africa gained revenge in Wollongong with an entertaining 3-2 victory.

The team will be training, available for autograph sessions and media interviews throughout their tour.

To ensure that junior players, coaches and fans see the boys either at a shopping centre, on the field or at other special functions, you will need to check your local newspapers.

While on tour Raul Blanco is expected to meet with local coaches for informal discussions. He will probably find himself and assistant Les Scheinflug in much demand for media interviews.

Games Galore

TOOWOOMBA offers the chance for participants in the Soccer section of the Talented Athletes Program (TAP) to display their skills. The encounter is on Wednesday (tomorrow) July 30 at 7.30pm.

The next port of call is Brisbane's Perry Park on Friday August 1 where at 7.00pm the Queensland representative team, under John Stewart, provide the opposition.

A flight to Rockhampton in Central Queensland (CQ) gives them the chance to play two games during their five day stay.

First up on Sunday the 3rd of August at 3 o'clock, they meet the challenge of the CQ TAP squad.

The Mayor of 'Rockie' has invited the squad to a formal reception on Tuesday and for a dinner that evening with local VIPs.

The following day, Wednesday 6 August, Rockhampton's Senior Representative side takes the field to test 'Blanco's Boys'.

Tropical Queensland

ON to the jewel of North Queensland, Townsville, for another five day visit. Twenty four hours after arrival the NQ TAP students meet the Olyroos at 7.30pm on Friday August 8.

Two days later on Sunday August 10, following a trip to Berdekin, Townsville's Senior Rep side is on the park at 5.00pm with the Olyroos.

Far North Queensland (FNQ) are hosts to the Olyroos for six days at the end of the trip.

Friday August 15 at 8pm, high on the Atherton Tablelands (birthplace of Queensland Soccer Legend Frank Farina), provides the venue for an 8pm game. Mareeba is a rich agricultural area producing tea, coffee, potatoes and many other crops.

Two days later, on Sunday August 17 in Cairns, the Olyroos play out their final encounter on this tour, with a 3pm kick off set down.

After this, they return to Canberra for a game against the Young Rockets on August 20.

Thirty Seven Months To Go

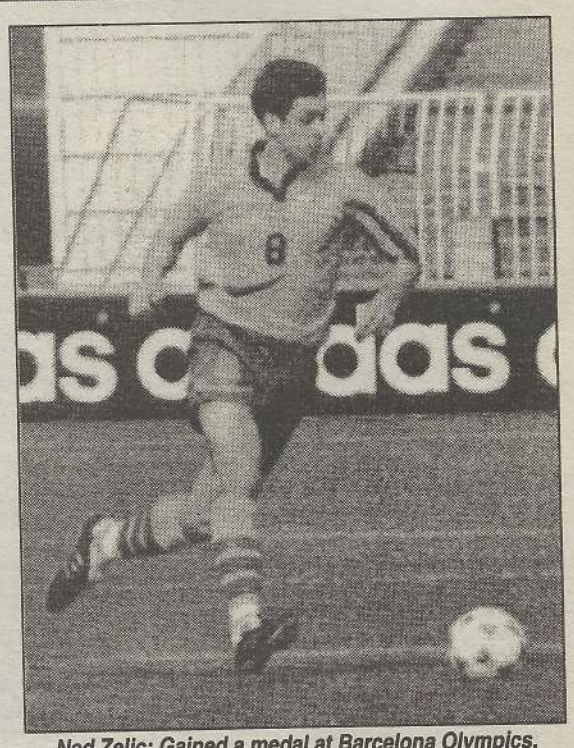
THERE will need to be many more games and thousands of additional training hours. The eligible players overseas will need to be brought into the fold coupled with the Australian based lads.

Aussies like Chris Coyne at West Ham United, Hayden Foxe and Danny Milosevic with Armenia Bielefeld, Harry Kewell of Leeds United, Millwall's Lucas Neill, Andrew McDermott in Birmingham with West Bromwich Albion and Liverpool's Nick Rizzo are all signed and playing in Europe.

Furthermore, Mark Robertson and Con Blatsis are trialling for a contract at Nottingham Forest

It is going to be a very expensive exercise to prepare the Olyroos for Sydney 2000. The income from all sources will have to be carefully managed to ensure that it matches expenditure. Maybe they also need a business manager.

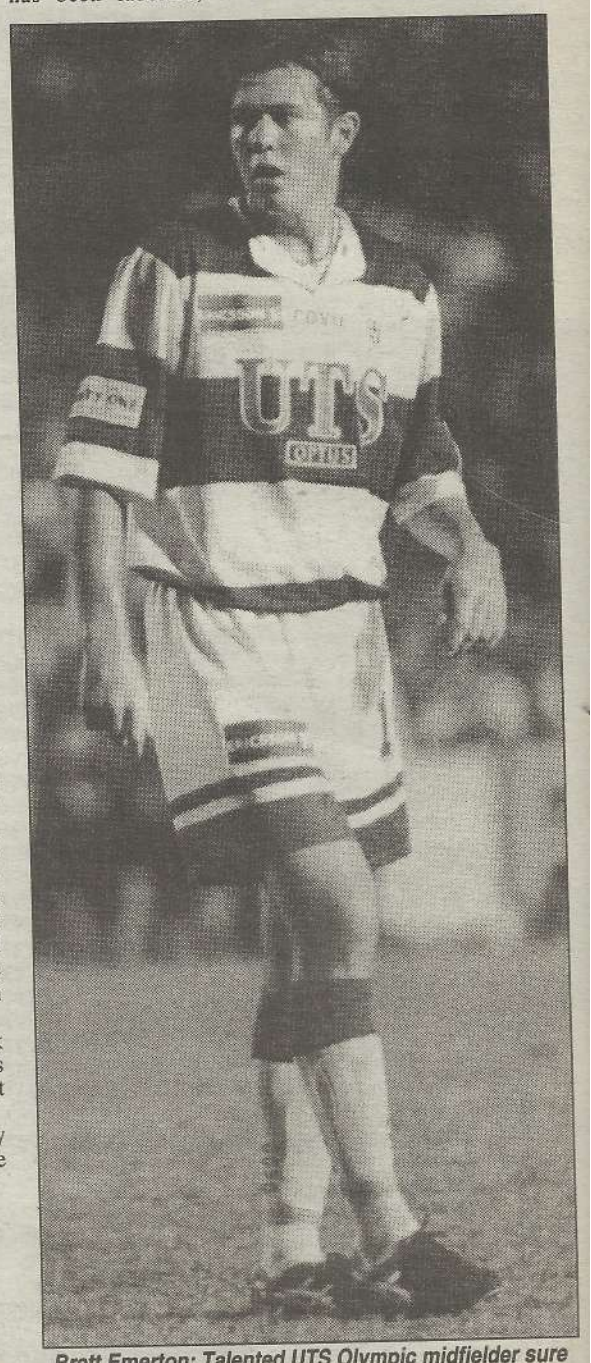
The East Coast Tour, as it has been labelled, is a wonderful opportunity for those outside of the big cities to see Australia's most promising international Soccer players preparing for the Olympic Football Tournament. The Games start on September 15 and run until October 1, 2000.



Ned Zelic: Gained a medal at Barcelona Olympics.

Brad Swancott: The young Newcastle Topper Breakers custodian has been called up.

Sebastian Sinozic: Wollongong Wolves defender on tour.



Brett Emerton: Talented UTS Olympic midfielder sure to impress the fans on east coast.

continued from page 4 ...

14/12/96 Wales - Turkey 0-0
29/3/97 Holland - San Marino...4-0
29/3/97 Wales - Belgium.....1-2
2/4/97 Turkey - Holland.....1-0
30/4/97 Turkey - Belgium.....1-3
30/4/97 San Marino - Holland...0-6
7/6/97 Belgium - San Marino..6-0
20/8/97 Turkey - Wales
6/9/97 Holland - Belgium
10/9/97 San Marino - Turkey
11/10/97 Belgium - Wales
11/10/97 Holland - Turkey

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Holland	6	5	0	1	20	3	15
Belgium	6	5	0	1	16	6	15
Turkey	5	2	1	2	10	5	7
Wales	6	2	1	3	14	12	7
San Marino	7	0	0	7	0	37	0

Group 8 (Romania, Macedonia, Republic of Ireland, Lithuania, Iceland, Liechtenstein)

24/4/96 Mac - Liechtenstein 3-0
1/6/96 Iceland - Macedonia....1-1
31/8/96 Liech - Rep of Ireland..0-5
31/8/96 Romania - Lithuania....3-0
5/10/96 Lithuania - Iceland 2-0
9/10/96 Iceland - Romania 0-4
9/10/96 Rep of Ireland - Mac ...3-0
9/10/96 Lithuania - Liech.....2-1
9/11/96 Liech - Macedonia.....1-11
10/11/96 Rep of Ireland - Ice'd ..0-0
14/12/96 Mac - Romania 0-3
29/3/97 Romania - Liech 8-0
2/4/97 Lithuania - Romania....0-1
2/4/97 Mac - Rep of Ireland ...3-2
30/4/97 Liech - Lithuania.....0-2
30/4/97 Rom - Rep of Ireland ..1-0
7/6/97 Rep of Ireland - Liech..5-0
7/6/97 Macedonia - Iceland....1-0
11/6/97 Iceland - Lithuania 0-0
19/8/97 Liechtenstein - Iceland
20/8/97 Rep of Ireland - Lithuania
20/8/97 Romania - Macedonia
6/9/97 Liechtenstein - Romania
6/9/97 Iceland - Rep of Ireland
6/9/97 Lithuania - Macedonia
10/9/97 Romania - Iceland
10/9/97 Lithuania - Rep of Ireland
11/10/97 Iceland - Liechtenstein
11/10/97 Rep of Ireland - Romania
11/10/97 Macedonia - Lithuania

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Romania	6	6	0	0	20	0	18
Macedonia	7	4	1	2	19	10	13
Rep of Ireland	6	3	1	2	15	4	10
Lithuania	6	3	1	2	6	5	10
Iceland	6	0	3	3	1	8	3
Liechtenstein	7	0	0	7	2	36	0

Group 9 (Portugal, Ukraine, Germany, N.Ireland, Armenia, Albania)

31/8/96 N Ireland - Ukraine.....0-1
31/8/96 Armenia - Portugal 0-0
5/10/96 N Ireland - Armenia.....1-1
5/10/96 Ukraine - Portugal 2-1
9/10/96 Albania - Portugal 0-3
9/10/96 Armenia - Germany.....1-5
9/11/96 Albania - Armenia 1-1
9/11/96 Germany - N Ireland....1-1
9/11/96 Portugal - Ukraine 1-0
14/12/96 N Ireland - Albania 2-0
14/12/96 Portugal - Germany 0-0
29/3/97 Albania - Ukraine.....0-1
29/3/97 N Ireland - Portugal 0-0
2/4/97 Albania - Germany 2-3
2/4/97 Ukraine - N Ireland.....2-1
30/4/97 Germany - Ukraine.....2-0
30/4/97 Armenia - N Ireland.....0-0
7/5/97 Ukraine - Armenia.....1-1
7/6/97 Portugal - Albania 2-0
7/6/97 Ukraine - Germany.....0-0
20/8/97 N Ireland - Germany
20/8/97 Portugal - Armenia
20/8/97 Ukraine - Albania
6/9/97 Germany - Portugal
6/9/97 Armenia - Albania
10/9/97 Albania - N Ireland
10/9/97 Germany - Armenia
11/10/97 Germany - Albania
11/10/97 Portugal - N Ireland
11/10/97 Armenia - Ukraine

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ukraine	8	4	2	2	7	6	14
Germany	6	3	3	0	11	4	12
Portugal	7	3	3	1	7	2	12
N Ireland	7	1	4	2	5	5	7
Armenia	6	0	5	1	3	7	5
Albania	6	0	1	5	3	12	1

AFRICA

(5 teams qualify)

FIRST ROUND

(home and away play offs, winner progress to 2nd round)

SECOND ROUND GROUP MATCHES

1st Legs

31/5/96 Maur'ia - Burk Faso 0-0
1/6/96 Uganda - Angola 0-2
1/6/96 Sudan - Zambia 2-0
1/6/96 Malawi - South Africa...0-1
1/6/96 Guinea Bissau - Guinea .3-2
1/6/96 Gambia - Liberia 2-1
1/6/96 Namibia - Mozambique 2-0
2/6/96 Swaziland - Gabon.....0-1
2/6/96 Mauritius - Zaire 1-5
2/6/96 Madagascar - Zimb'e....1-2
2/6/96 Rwanda - Tunisia.....1-3
2/6/96 Congo - Ivory Coast 2-0
2/6/96 Kenya - Algeria.....3-1
2/6/96 Burundi - Sierra Leone .1-0
2/6/96 Togo - Senegal 2-1
8/6/96 Tanzania - Ghana.....0-0

2nd Legs

14/6/96 Algeria - Kenya.....1-0
15/6/96 Senegal - Togo 1-1
15/6/96 S Africa - Malawi.....3-0
16/6/96 B'kina Faso - M'tania....2-0
16/6/96 Angola - Uganda 3-1
16/6/96 Zambia - Sudan 3-0
16/6/96 Guinea - Guinea Bissau .3-1
16/6/96 Mozambique - Namibia 1-1
16/6/96 Gabon - Swaziland.....2-0
16/6/96 Zaire - Mauritius 2-0
16/6/96 Zimb'e - Madagascar....2-2
16/6/96 Tunisia - Rwanda.....2-0
16/6/96 Ivory Coast - Congo 1-1
16/6/96 Sierra Leone - Burundi .0-1
17/6/96 Ghana - Tanzania.....2-1
23/6/96 Liberia - Gambia 4-0

SECOND ROUND *(group winners qualify for finals - Burundi expelled after UN sanctions allowed no flights in or out of the country following coup d'etat)*

Group 1 *(Guinea, Nigeria, Kenya, Burkina Faso)*

9/11/96 Nigeria - Burkina Faso ..2-0
10/11/96 Guinea - Kenya 3-1
12/1/97 Kenya - Nigeria.....1-1
12/1/97 Burkina Faso - Guinea ..0-2
5/4/97 Nigeria - Guinea 2-1
5/4/97 Kenya - Burkina Faso....4-3
27/4/97 Burkina Faso - Nigeria..1-2
27/4/97 Kenya - Guinea 1-0
7/6/97 Nigeria - Kenya.....3-0
8/6/97 Guinea - Burkina Faso ..3-1
17/8/97 Guinea - Nigeria
17/8/97 Burkina Faso - Kenya

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
NIGERIA	5	4	1	0	10	3	13
Guinea	5	3	0	2	9	5	9
Kenya	5	2	1	2	7	10	7
Burkina Faso	5	0	0	5	5	13	0

Group 2 *(Tunisia, Egypt, Liberia, Namibia)*

8/11/96 Egypt - Namibia 7-1
10/11/96 Liberia - Tunisia 0-1
11/1/97 Namibia - Liberia 0-0
12/1/97 Tunisia - Egypt 1-0
5/4/97 Namibia - Tunisia.....1-2
6/4/97 Liberia - Egypt.....1-0
26/4/97 Namibia - Egypt 2-3
27/4/97 Tunisia - Liberia 2-0
8/6/97 Liberia - Namibia 1-2
8/6/97 Egypt - Tunisia 0-0
17/8/97 Egypt - Liberia
17/8/97 Tunisia - Namibia

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
TUNISIA	5	4	1	0	6	1	13
Egypt	5	2	1	2	10	5	7
Liberia	5	1	1	3	2	5	4
Namibia	5	1	1	3	6	13	4

Group 3 *(Congo, South Africa, Zaire, Zambia)*

9/11/96 South Africa - Zaire 1-0
10/11/96 Congo - Zambia.....1-0
11/1/97 Zambia - South Africa...0-0
12/1/97 Zaire - Congo.....1-1
6/4/97 Congo - South Africa....2-0
6/4/97 Zaire - Zambia 2-2
27/4/97 Zambia - Congo.....3-0
27/4/97 Zaire - South Africa 1-2
8/6/97 Congo - Zaire.....1-1
8/6/97 South Africa - Zambia...3-0
17/8/97 South Africa - Congo
17/8/97 Zambia - Zaire

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
South Africa	5	3	1	1	6	3	10
Congo	5	2	2	1	5	5	8
Zambia	5	1	2	2	5	6	5
Zaire	5	0	3	2	5	7	3

Group 4 *(Cameroon, Angola, Zimbabwe, Togo)*

10/11/96 Angola - Zimbabwe 2-1
10/11/96 Togo - Cameroon 2-4
12/1/97 Cameroon - Angola 0-0
12/1/97 Zimbabwe - Togo 3-0
6/4/97 Angola - Togo.....3-1
6/4/97 Cameroon - Zimbabwe.1-0
27/4/97 Zimbabwe - Angola 0-0
27/4/97 Cameroon - Togo 2-0
8/6/97 Angola - Cameroon 1-1
8/6/97 Togo - Zimbabwe 2-1
17/8/97 Togo - Angola
17/8/97 Zimbabwe - Cameroon

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cameroon	5	3	2	0	8	3	11
Angola	5	2	3	0	6	3	9
Zimbabwe	5	1	1	3	5	5	4
Togo	5	1	0	4	5	13	3

Group 5 *(Morocco, Sierra Leone, Ghana, Gabon)*

9/11/96 Morocco - Sierra Leone4-0
10/11/96 Gabon - Ghana.....1-1
11/1/97 Sierra Leone - Gabon....1-0
12/1/97 Ghana - Morocco.....2-2
6/4/97 Gabon - Morocco.....0-4
6/4/97 Sierra Leone - Ghana....1-1
27/4/97 Ghana - Gabon.....3-0
27/4/97 Sierra Leone - Morocco 0-1
8/6/97 Gabon - Sierra Leone
8/6/97 Morocco - Ghana.....1-0
17/8/97 Morocco - Gabon
17/8/97 Ghana - Sierra Leone

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
MOROCCO	5	4	1	0	14	2	13
Ghana	5	1	3	1	7	5	6
Sierra Leone	4	1	1	2	2	6	4
Gabon	4	0	1	3	1	9	1

TEAMS QUALIFIED FOR FRANCE '98 - NIGERIA, TUNISIA, MOROCCO.

Continued next week...

Mark Fish: His Italian experiences will set him up well for the Finals.

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Bush Neglected

Dear Sir,

With Soccer in Australia seemingly on the rise, I think it's time to focus on a neglected area of Oz Soccer, the country areas. While it is understandable that in the past Soccer has not had the financial resources to plough ahead in the bush, now that real money is beginning to filter into the game, the gold mine which is country Soccer must be exploited.

I find it incredible that many large towns never get the chance to see either an Ericsson Cup game or at least a state league standard match. Areas such as Townsville, Toowoomba, the Gold Coast (QLD); Ballarat & Bendigo (VIC); Coffs Harbour, Dubbo, Albury (NSW); Whyalla, Mt Gambia, Albany and many other places should be allowed to field teams in their respective state 'Premier' division. In NSW for example, if such country areas were represented in the 'Super League' it would open up a whole new junior area to national exposure.

One can see the value of sport in the bush from the number of Cricket, League and AFL players who have come from there. Basically all the current state competitions are 'state-wide' in name only as they all remain metropolitan based. They shouldn't have the right to claim to be state leagues if they don't spread out into regional areas. To get the bush involved, I think it may take the influence of Soccer Australia to help the backward state federations get the money involved in invite country teams. Furthermore, it would be great to see a scheme to increase the participation of Aboriginal Australians in Soccer, particularly when they are making such progress in so many other sports. It seems Soccer is the exception.

I was wondering whether ABSW could perhaps do a story looking at the situation of country Soccer in a number of our states. We never hear about the type of competitions based outside the capital cities and what federation exist to cater for bush players. It was interesting to hear about the 'Central West League' from Bob Brooks in ABSW July 8 edition.

It's also good to see some of the excellent results Bundaberg Waves are getting in Queensland. Would anyone like to write in to describe the sort of impact they (Across the Waves) are making in this country town?

Stan Brian,
Earlwood, NSW.

Letters to the Editor

Have your say on any soccer issue in the world. Preference will be given to short letters. Include daytime phone number for verification.

The Editor,
AUSTRALIAN & BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY
PO BOX 155,
MARRICKVILLE
NSW 2204
Fax: (02) 9550-9332

Short letters of about 400 words will be given preference in this column.

The opinions expressed on this page do not necessarily reflect those of this newspaper

Local coaches? In time

Dear Sir,

It is heartening and encouraging for Aussie Soccer that so many young, up-and-coming coaches are making their mark in the Ericsson Cup. Branko Culina formally of Sydney Utd and now at Canberra Cosmos, is the first to be recognised with his appointment as assistant to long serving youth coach, Les Scheinflug.

There are others too, in paricular Frank Farina, Gary Marocchi, Eddie Krncevic, Angie Postecoglou, John Kosmina, and now David Mitchell. All have played for their country, and in the case of Mitchell, Krncevic and Farina, they also have extensive overseas experience.

This is the nub of my argument. Overseas experience, in particular the European leagues, gives players a tremendous edge in almost all aspects of the professional game.

Let's look at our coaches in the more recent past. Thomson did not have any significant experience on the world scene, and as a result, he was only able to take Australia so far, some would say riding the coat tails of theAustralian player boom of the nineties, Zelic, Bosnich, Vidmar, Slater etc.

Frank Arok took over when Australia was considered 'third world'. He did a remarkable job in lifting Australia into the position of a respected second world nation. With the majority of the squad based in Australia, it was Arok's unique style of motivation and overseas experience (from Yugoslavia), that provided the basis for the success.

With Thomson, it was the other way round. The players with the international experience providing the catalyst for the continued improvement, with the coaching lacking that vital ingredient.

Now, finally, we have the mix right. The coaching has significant international experience, and the players have the same. What a combination!

My point is this. Until Australia cements a place in the top ten in the world (we are currently ranked 31), we have to continue to 'outsource' the national coaching position, with one vital inclusion. The use of the new breed of Aussie coaches in the positions of U/17 Joeys, U/20 Young Socceroos, and Olyroo coaching positions.

Therefore, in the next 10-20 years, when we have hopefully planted ourselves in the world top ten, the coaches mentioned earlier should be able to pick up the baton with confidence.

By that stage they will have had international experience at senior level, to augment their European and local club experience. Furthermore, by coaching underneath a Venables, a Santana or a Beckenbauer (and why not have the best, as David Hill has shown), the local coaches can only improve even more, all the better for the day when they will eventually take over.

We should be proud of our local coaching, but also realistic. None of them has the coaching experience and success, like a Terry Venables.

We need types like Venables to take us to that level, show us the way, give us the benefit of their experience. Internationally we have to learn to walk before we can run. If these new breed of Aussie coaches is allowed their chance, let us give it to them but be realistic — we need world class coaching to get us to the point where we won't need it.

Andrew Carr
Mornington, Vic

Rules change — disadvantages Australia

Dear Sir,

I am absolutely horrified at the recent turn of events regarding the 1998 World Cup qualifiers.

When the draw was originally announced in 1995 it was quite clear that the second round of Asian qualifiers would involve two groups of five teams. At this point it is worth allowing the FIFA web page to take over.

Each group will play a tournament (league system in which each team plays one match against the others in the group) in one or two neutral countries.

The winner and the runner-up in each group will qualify for the semi finals.

The two semi final winners will play the final match and also qualify for the final competition of World Cup France 98.

The two losing teams will compete in a 3rd place play-off, the winner of which will qualify for World Cup France 98.

The losing team will play against the winner of Oceania for a place in the final competition of World Cup France 98 (home and away matches).

Now, some two years later, we discover that the rules of the game have been changed halfway through the last quarter. The Asians have cunningly realised that there are far more FIFA ranking points to be earned if each team plays eight matches (home and away) rather than four (single round robin), thus earning them a possibly higher seeding at the finals' draw in December.

This decision has had disastrous consequences for Australia. The second round of Asian qualifying matches has been scheduled from September through to November, with the play-off between the group runners-up not scheduled until November 15. Australia is due to play the loser of this play-off, on foreign soil, on November 22, allowing a maximum of six days to plan transport, accommodation and so on for what is possibly our most important match ever.

This is a disgrace. I can only imagine the chaos if we are forced to travel to Uzbekistan on short notice, or even Saudi Arabia or Kuwait where the jet lag alone of two major trips within a week will surely severely hamper the team's prospects.

Soccer Australia must act immediately and protest to FIFA in the strongest possible terms. The France 98 Organising Committee must step in and ensure Australia will be participating on a level playing field.

Kevin Christopher,
Oakleigh South, VIC.

Editor's Note: Thank you for raising this. It struck me as odd that the last game in Asia was only six days before Australia has to play the first leg. What sleight of hand can we 'offer' in return?

Vale KEN SLACK 1923-1997

Ken Slack was born in Lancashire, England on 17th May 1923. He joined the British Army at the age of 15 and reached the rank of corporal (several times). Ken served with both the Royal Artillery and the Royal Engineers, and saw action in Palestine and Dunkirk. During part of his duties in the second world war, he was stationed at Coventry, England where he met a young lady called Ellen. They married shortly thereafter and remained happily married until Ken's death on Wednesday evening.

After moving to Australia Ken became involved in Soccer, and started Werribee Soccer Club. He was also the driving force behind the formation of Mosfield Soccer Club (now called Hoppers Crossing Soccer Club) a few years later. Ken also served as the secretary of Albion Rovers for an extended period.

Without doubt, Ken will best be remembered for his tireless contributions to Soccer administration. As long-standing Chairman of the original Junior Leagues Management Committee (JLMC), Ken earned the respect of both his colleagues, and the clubs and players whom he served, by his integrity and total devotion to Soccer. Ken was also involved with the Victorian State Teams, and took squads overseas to both Japan and Italy.

He also worked at Soccer House and was rewarded with Life Membership of the Victorian Soccer Federation for his contributions to the World Game. Ken also served two terms as a member of the Victorian Soccer Federation Board of Management where his input was instrumental in the early stages of the revamping of the VSF administration. At the time of his death Ken was again involved in the position of Chairman of the newly reformed JLMC.

Ken is survived by his wife Ellen, and by his children Norma (who lives in England), and Maureen. His son David died tragically eighteen months ago.

There is no doubt that Soccer in general, and junior Soccer in particular, has lost one of its finest statesmen.

MORIC HEADING FOR A MORTGAGE

By BRUCE CAMPBELL

Ante Moric made a name for himself as a classy left midfielder, bursting into a talented Sydney United side as a teenager under Manfred Schaefer. But it was as a left back that he starred in United's campaign last season, when they swept away — in a style not seen for some years — the Ericsson Cup minor premiership

"Naturally you play where the coach tells you," responds Moric to the often asked question by many in the game of why did he play full back instead of midfield?'

The season before, the Socceroo played a prominent role in midfield, and it was often his telling left foot crosses which led to all important goals as his club grabbed yet another Top Six spot.

But last season saw Ante's 'removal' into the backline, a position which Eddie Thomson thought was his best. It was the tough Scot who guided Moric's international career through from the Joeys, Young Socceroos, Olyroos and finally to the Socceroos.

Moric, who played in midfield in the 1993 World Youth Championship, has tired of answering questions about which role he prefers.

"That's right," he says, "I've just answered that particular question so many times it isn't funny."

However, Moric does concede that it is his ability as a midfield player which allowed him to fill the new role to his club coach's satisfaction. Now, he is again teaming up with Branko Culina at Novell Canberra Cosmos.

Instead of linking up with the forwards or looping long balls across the field, Moric has another string to his bow. Raiding out of defence, and knocking in even longer balls to the forwards.

"That's probably right," the new Cosmos star says. "That kind of play helps the team get a few long crosses in. If it helps the team then that is important too."

Moric also recognises that his role last season is a position created by the modern game, a role which has seen many players — once regarded as forwards — now playing 'wing back'. Players such as Socceroo icon Robbie Slater, are now filling such a role for Southampton in the English Premier League.

"It is a position in which you have to get up and down the flank and get in your share of tackling as well as attacking.

"It is suited to an attacking player and while it has its minuses, it also has its pluses.

"The style is a good one. It gives a team two central defenders at the back, and a stopper, as well as that freedom to get forward whenever possible.

"I don't have to stay back, I can get down the channel whenever possible."

And while Moric would still prefer his 'conventional' role in midfield, he was the final word on the switch to modern Soccer.

"It's hard," he says, "but if it is good for the team then that is what this game is all about."

Coming into his sixth Ericsson Cup season, the classy Socceroo will be looking for a return to his midfield role with Novell Canberra Cosmos, knowing he has a League Premiership medal in his trophy cabinet, and, playing one of the most important roles in the modern game.

That might just be enough to put his name back up in lights long enough to cement a spot in Terry Venables' squad for France 98.

That is good news for Canberra Soccer fans, who can now savour the thought of seeing one of the country's best midfield players in action, in a side, which on paper, looks to have one of the best midfields in the country.

With Kelly, Rodrigo, Ravanello, Musitano and now Moric to choose from, coach Culina has an abundance of middle park talent never seen at the club before.

Born: 19.4.74
Position: .....Midfield
Jnr Soccer: ...Sydney United
Last club:.....Sydney United
..... (NSL debut 1992)
Previous clubs:.....Australian
.....Institute of Sport
Inter honours:.....Australia
.....U/17s Australia U/20s
.....Australia Olympic
...Australia Full International

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NSW & QLD News

BOCK SOARS FOR EAGLES

By DANE SKAFTE

The Final of 1997 Arctic Cup was held last Wednesday night at Lyle Peacock Oval at Toronto. The mighty Edgeworth Eagles proved too strong with a two-nil win over Toronto Awaba Stags, whose youthful exuberance was no match for the experience of the Eagles. The winners picked up a handy $2,000.

David Bock scored a double to put the game, and Arctic Cup, out of reach. He opened the scoring in the 15th minute when Toronto failed to clear a ball outside the penalty area, and the former Adamstown striker hammered a half-volley past Stags' keeper Chris Bowling.

He scored his second with ten minutes remaining, after a cross from the right was not cleared, allowing him to slot the ball home.

Edgeworth's coach, Bob Namouv, said it was a good result. "We set ourselves targets of winning the three trophies on offer this season. The Arctic Cup was the first of those and the NBN Premiership is next, but there are a number of teams who are capable of winning that.

"Toronto proved they are a good young side, they kept us on our toes all night."

Toronto Coach Jack Routledge was pleased with his young side's performance, despite losing the match, saying later that "We never gave up. Edgeworth had the big guns but our lads kept plugging away.

"We gave away too much possession in the second half. I will be looking for a few more experienced players for next season," he concluded.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

NEWCASTLE Topper Breakers will be fielding teams in the New South Wales Super Youth League in 1998.

Members of Adamstown Rosebud Youth League have been involved in the transition of the operation to the Breakers, and they see it as a progressive step.

The sides competing will be the U/13, U/14, U/15, U/16s, and they will play under the name of Newcastle Breakers Football.

It is imperative that the Breakers — along with the other New South Wales based Ericsson Cup clubs — have juniors competing at the highest level. Player development will be monitored by the Breakers' Senior Coaches, John Kosmina and Greg Smith, along with NNSWSF Director of Coaching Ken Kaiser.

The pyramid base of personnel will be more effective, resulting in the natural progression from Super Youth League to the Breakers' senior teams.

Breakers' boss John Kosmina declared that, "The inclusion of the Youth League into the Breakers' set up offers a great opportunity for local and regional juniors. There is now a definite career path previously not available for youngsters who are ambitious and committed enough to make the grade.

"It also gives the club hands on involvement in developing the good habits and football philosophies necessary to become top sportsmen. This lifts the profile and standard of the game in NNSW. It also provides the Breakers senior squad with a stream of young players," Kosmina concluded.

Kaiser added that "The joint venture paves the way for a career path for talented players in Northern New South Wales.

"The Federation's development programmes, which include the Hunter Academy of Sports programme, and feeder squads from the country areas, can be integrated into the Topper Breakers Youth Development team."

Coaching positions will be advertised in the coming weeks, with trials to be held in September for the 1998 season.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

IN THE curtain raiser to the Arctic Cup Final, Kotara South defeated Medowie 2-1 in the District Champion Cup, a concept available for clubs below Division Two.

Lambton Boys High and Swansea Girls High recorded victories in the respective Hunter District Championship Cups.

BULLI LEADS ALL THE WAY

By PHIL MURPHY

At Bulli, familiarity breeds success. With seven rounds to play, Bulli lead the premier league table, and, are on top in both reserve and youth grade.

First grade coach Peter Beggs has his own opinions on why Bulli are successful. He feels the fact that many of the players are mates and have been playing together for a long time are the main factors.

"You have the likes of Warren Baker, Chris Curtin, Rod Patterson, Stuart Glass, Rob Bemi and others who are part of the furniture at Bulli," Beggs observed.

"The same applies to the other two grades. In the youth team, we have players who started out in the juniors and have come up together into the under/ 19s.

"Some of them have been in the side since they were 16."

Bulli have so far proved the best club in the league and they definitely have the best ground. Beggs said playing on the superb Balls Paddock surface every second week is a big plus to the club, and obviously helps keep players at the club.

He said officials Roy Hancox, Duncan McNeil and Ken Mangles are working on the ground just about every day of the week.

"The players don't get the money some others get at other clubs but they are certain they will be paid," he noted.

"We paid out just $800 to buy three players at the start of the season — Aaron and Simon Bain, plus Al McLeish.

"The Bain brothers came to us from Lysaghts and Simon has been outstanding at the back in first grade."

Bulli are a great chance of winning the club championship but Lysaghts aren't that far behind. The clubs will meet in three weeks and that could decide the issue.

Bulli play lowly Balgownie on Saturday and should get the three points.

Beggs knows his team have been a little unlucky in recent weeks. In the last three games, his team have lost to Wollongong Olympic and Coniston and drew with Cringila.

"We played well against Coniston and Cringila but got only one point out of six," Beggs lamented.

"That's football, we have won games when we didn't play that well."

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

ON Saturday, Bulli looked to have the three points in the bag when they led 1-0 deep into injury time, however, Cringila scored an equaliser through striker Pepe Stanizzo.

West-Figtree, still without a win this season, scored first against Lysaghts but went down 2-1.

Northern United and Port Kembla also finished 1-1 while Wollongong White Eagles accounted for Balgownie 2-0, and Dapto scored an important 2-1 away win against Coniston.

Sunday's match of the round at Brandon Park saw Fernhill edge out Wollongong Olympic 1-0. Veteran Gary Hatton got the goal in the first half and Olympic were very ordinary in attack. Fernhill will now play a very important game against Coniston this weekend.

Unfortunately, key midfielder Greg Yeaman will miss the game through suspension, he received his fourth yellow card of the season against Olympic.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

THERE is an interesting clash coming up on October 10. The Illawarra Soccer Association has scheduled their premier league Grand Final at Brandon Park.

The car park should be full because Wollongong City will also meet Ericsson Cup champions, Brisbane Strikers, at the same venue that day.

One solution could be for Wolves to play their game against Brisbane at WIN Stadium — home ground of the Illawarra Steelers rugby league team. Another is for the Ericsson Cup game to be switched to the Friday night. The ISA's big game attracted a crowd of just over 3,500 last season so mark this weekend down as a must see.

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CITY ON TRACK IN XXXX

By GLENN DAVIS

Coach Bobby Hamilton believes Brisbane City are in the box seat to win the XXXX League Premiership and "can only give it away" after thrashing joint leaders, Taringa Rovers, 5-0 at Spencer Park on Sunday.

A stunning hat trick by former Brisbane Strikers and UTS Olympic forward, Chris Slater, paved the way for Brisbane City's form reversal after they were on the receiving end of a 5-1 thumping by Bundaberg Waves last round.

With only two games to go, Brisbane City need only to beat Wynnum and Coalstars — two clubs currently in the bottom three on the table — to take out the premiership.

Taringa, who have led the competition for many months, have now slipped to third place with 33 points, three adrift of Brisbane City and a further two behind Brisbane Lions, who jumped into second place after defender Darren Sime gave them a 1-0 win over Beenleigh.

In the round's other crucial game, Wynnum sank Bundaberg's premiership aspirations with a 3-1 away win, while Rochedale kept alive its slim semi-final hopes with a 1-1 draw against Coalstars.

Slater, along with striking partner Royce Brownlie, were devastating for Brisbane City, running amok against a lethargic and out of form Taringa.

However, it was midfielder Dean Almond who stunned Taringa with the opening goal after only two minutes, cleverly glancing a header off a Cameron Pearse corner into the net.

City were denied what appeared to be a second goal two minutes later, when a header from rookie Brownlie struck the underside of the bar and appeared to cross the goaline.

Taringa were not without their chances. Midway through the first half midfielder Darren Hiller missed an open chance against City keeper Danny Duke.

Slater stamped his mark on the game close to the half hour when, inside the box, he turned Taringa sweeper Dimitri Theochari before slotting home from an acute angle.

The former Ericsson Cup star, who has been struggling to find his touch from his national league days, slotted home his second two minutes later when he raced onto a Shane Haddow free-kick.

He looked in no position to score yet somehow managed to twist his foot and flick a shot past a stunned Taringa keeper Scott Higgins.

Brownlie was finally rewarded with his first goal after working tirelessly up front, driving home a left foot shot from the edge of the area midway through the second half.

Four minutes later Slater hammered the final nail in the Taringa coffin, collecting his hat trick by rounding the Taringa defence before rifling home a left foot shot.

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NSW Soccer Federation

SUPER LEAGUE

ROUND 21

	1st	U/21	U/18
St George v Blacktown City	1-3	1-0	0-6
Bankstown City v Sutherland Shire	1-1	3-4	0-3
P'atta Eagles v B'yrigg White Eagles	2-2	1-2	5-1
C'bury Marrickville v Macarthur Rams	4-1	1-5	1-0
Leichhardt Tigers v Sydney United	2-0	0-3	0-1
Leichhardt Tigers v Bankstown City	-	-	3-1
Parramatta Eagles v Sutherland Shire	-	3-1	7-1
Ctral Coast v Canterbury Marrickville	0-0	4-1	0-1

FIRST

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Parramatta Eagles	19	10	7	2	39	16	37
Leichhardt Tigers	19	11	3	5	22	14	36
Bonnyrigg We	18	10	3	5	44	19	33
Blacktown City	19	7	6	6	27	23	27
Bankstown City	20	7	6	7	32	30	27
Central Coast	19	6	7	6	24	21	25
Canterbury Berries	18	5	8	5	24	32	23
Macarthur Rams	19	6	4	9	21	35	22
Sydney United	19	5	4	10	18	36	18
St George	18	2	9	7	19	33	15
Sutherland Sharks	18	2	7	9	17	28	13

DIVISION ONE

ROUND 29

	1st	U/21	U/18
Warringah Dolphins v Penrith Panthers	1-1	3-3	1-0
Hills United v Stanmore Hawks	1-1	4-1	6-1
Rockdale City Suns v Fairfield Bulls	2-4	1-3	13-0
Illawarra Lions v Bathurst '75	3-1	0-12	1-5
Eastern Suburbs v Auburn United	0-1	2-4	4-1
Hills United v Belmore Hercules	1-3	0-0	2-1
Mt Pritchard v Ryde City	1-6	3-3	1-0
S'more Hawks v H'tville City Minotaurs	0-1	0-1	2-2
Greystanes v West Wanderers	0-0	1-3	0-1
W'gah Dolphins v Stanmore Hawks	0-3 (F)	-	-
Eastern Suburbs v West Wanderers	2-1	1-3	-
Belmore Hercules v Illawarra Lions	2-0	2-0	1-3
Stanmore Hawks v Mt Pritchard	-	-	0-3

FIRST

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hurstville City Minotaurs	29	22	1	6	69	19	67
Ryde City	29	20	4	5	59	26	64
Eastern Suburbs	29	14	11	4	43	28	53
Bathurst '75	29	16	3	10	65	40	51
Stanmore Hawks	28	15	5	8	60	37	50
Mt Pritchard	29	13	7	9	41	41	46
Belmore Hercules	27	13	4	10	51	42	43
Fairfield Bulls	29	13	4	12	45	53	43
Hills United	29	13	3	13	47	46	42
Auburn United	29	11	7	11	58	58	40
Rockdale City Suns	27	10	4	13	62	65	34
Illawarra Lions	29	8	7	14	42	56	28
Penrith Panthers	28	7	6	15	46	54	27
Greystanes	28	7	4	17	44	78	25
West Wanderers	29	4	3	22	31	78	15
Warringah Dolphins	28	3	5	20	20	62	13

DIVISION TWO

ROUND 22

	1st	U/21	U/18
Dulwich Hill v Parramatta City	0-1	3-3	2-2
Sydney Districts v AC United	0-6	1-1	0-2
Moorebank Sports v Liverpool City	2-1	3-2	0-1
Gladesville United v Hurstville Zsc	0-2	2-1	0-2
Uni of NSW v Alexander Warriors	2-2	13-1	0-0
Concord Juniors v Mt Druitt Town	0-11	0-2	0-16
Alexander Warriors v Parramatta City	0-3	1-3	0-3
Dulwich Hill v Alexander Warriors	-	-	5-0
Sydney District v Mt Druitt Town	2-1	4-0	1-1
University of NSW v Moorebank Spts	0-2	0-0	0-3 (F)

FIRST

AC United 43, Moorebank Sports 41, Uni of NSW 39, Hurstville Zsc 35, Mt Druitt Town 33, Dulwich Hill 33, Sydney District 33, Gladesville United 28, Liverpool City 28, Parramatta City 22, Alexander Warriors 18, Concord Juniors 15.

DIVISION THREE

ROUND 19

	1st	2nd
Glebe Wanderers v Prairiewood	3-0	3-0
Colo Colo v White City	0-3	3-5
The Wanderers v Granville Greenisland	3-2	4-2
Arncliffe Scots v Trasandinos	4-1	3-5
Prospect United v Hawkesbury City	2-1	6-0
Granville Greenisland v The Wanderers	1-1	1-2

FIRST

Glebe Wanderers 44, Arncliffe Scots 41, Granville Greenisland 33, Colo Colo 32, The Wanderers 32, Prospect United 28, Hakoah 26, White City 25, Hawkesbury City 21, Trasandinos 21, St Johns Park 9, Prairiewood United 7.

DIVISION FOUR

ROUND 21

	1st	2nd
United Eagles v St Josephs	1-2	3-0 (f)
Maroubra United v Sydney University	3-1	P/P
Fairfield Kings v CSI Schofields 1-5	0-3 (f)	
Lithgow Workmen v Marrickville	1-3	4-0
Earlwood Hermes v Balmain	2-0	1-3
Fraser Park v Mascot Kings	2-2	0-2
Fraser Park v Springwood	0-0	5-1

FIRST

Maroubra United 48, Sydney University 43, Fraser Park 42, Earlwood Hermes 39, CSI Schofields 38, Mascot Kings 34, Marrickville 34, St Josephs 27, United Eagles 24, Balmain 21, Lithgow Workmen 19, Springwood 16, Angels Liverpool United 5, Fairfield Kings 3.

DIVISION FIVE

ROUND 21

	1st	2nd
Blacktown Premier v Auburn Star	4-0	4-5
Bossy v AVA United	8-0	1-0
Camden Tigers v Racing	3-2	1-0
Kosciusko v Homenetmen	0-3	3-3
Fairfield Eagles v Nepean District	0-2	0-6
AC Sydney v Sporting SCC	5-0	3-5
Canterbury Bullet v Holy Cross	1-3	1-5
Blacktown Premier v Nepean District	0-1	0-4

FIRST

Camden Tigers 50, Holy Cross College 46, Nepean District 41, Bossy 39, Blacktown Premier 36, AC Sydney 30, Homenetmen 29, Racing 26, Fairfield Eagles 25, Canterbury Bullets 25, Kosciusko 19, Auburn Star 17, Sporting SCC 16, AVA United 8.

WOMENS

DIVISION ONE

ROUND 20

	1st	2nd
NNSW Institute/Academy v S'erland Shire	2-1	1-3
UWS Macarthur v Gladesville Raven	4-2	1-0
Eastern Suburbs v Marconi	0-9	P/P
Sutherland Shire v NSW Institute/Academy	1-3	1-2
Penrith Panthers v Macquarie District	3-4	2-6
NNSW Institute/Academy v Sydney United	0-2	P/P
Moorebank Sports v Marconi	0-3	1-4
NSW Institute/Academy v Eastern Suburbs	4-0	3-0 (f)

FIRST

AUSTRALIAN WOMEN'S SOCCER ASSOCIATION

NSW Inst/Academy 45, Marconi 42, Sydney United 40, NNSW Inst/Academy 38, Sutherland Shire 25, UWS Macarthur 25, Macquarie District 15, Eastern Suburbs 14, Penrith Panthers 13, Moorebank Sports 10, Gladesville Raven 7.

DIVISION TWO

	1st
Macarthur v Eastern Suburbs	0-4
University of NSW v Shoalhaven Association	0-2
Gladesville Raven v St George Association	0-0
Eastern Suburbs v Macarthur	3-0
University of NSW v Roselands	0-2
Liverpool Olympic v Bathurst City	0-4
Wollongong City v Shoalhaven Association	1-3

FIRST

Shoalhave Association 34, St George Assocation 33, Roselands 31, Bathurst City 28, Gladesville Raven 21, Eastern Suburbs 18, Liverpool Olympic 17, Wollongong City 17, Uni of NSW 10, Macarthur 10.

Ivo De Jesus: Another superb performance by the young Demon.

TOP OF THE TABLE

Bonnyrigg White Eagles

FIRST DIVISION

Wednesday July 30

Greystanes v Stanmore Hawks — Popondetta Park, 8.15pm

Warringah Dolphins v Belmore Hercules — Mona Park, 8.15pm

Rd 30 — Friday August 1

Penrith Panthers v Eastern Suburbs — Cook Park (St Marys) 8.15pm

Saturday August 2

Auburn United v Hills United — Mona Park, 3pm

Belmore Hercules v Mt. Pritchard — Blick Oval, 3pm

Greystanes v Rockdale City Suns — Nineveh Field, 3pm

Sunday August 3

Fairfield Bulls v Illawarra Lions — Nineveh field, 3pm

Bathurst '75 v Warringah Dolphins — Alec Lamberton, 3pm

Ryde City v Stanmoe Hawks — T.G. Millner field, 3pm

Hurstville City Minotaurs v West Wanderers — Hurstville Oval, 3pm

Rd 25 — Belmore Hercules v Rockdale City Suns — Blick Oval, 3pm

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NSW Soccer Federation

HURSTVILLE CROWNED MINOR PREMIERS

By PAUL GOODWIN

STANMORE 0 HURSTVILLE MINOTAURS 1

Hurstville City Minotaurs thrilled the supporters, among a large crowd at Arlington Oval, with a last minute winner which clinched the minor premiership.

Lacking Jason Oldridge and Burin Zajmi, Stanmore found it hard to get many goalscoring opportunities, but did hit the post once and had a couple of shots blocked as they continued to build nicely from the back.

Minotaurs piled on the pressure and some late substitutions made Stanmore work even harder to contain the would be premiers.

Peter Papoythis was an inspiration, constantly coming forward and planting some telling headers, really testing the keeper. From his last push he released substitute John Palapanis whose ground hugging shot, from 18 metres out, took a slight deviation just as Kyprianou appeared to have it covered and the ball lodged in the bottom left corner of the net.

It was despair for Stanmore who had given their all and seemed set to take a point, but full credit to Minotaurs who never stopped trying and got their reward at the death.

MOUNT PRITCHARD 1 RYDE CITY 6

A goal down from a Sean Babic header in the 9th minute, Ryde fought back to level four minutes later with a fine Allan Welsh goal, and went on to thrash a disappointing Mount Pritchard side at Cook Park.

Young Tim Gledhill chimed in with a hat trick, aided by some good work by strike partner Matthew Borg.

Substitutes Volcan Yildirim and Jim Boudaher added two more goals late in the game to compound the Mounties' misery and put paid to the home side's hopes of establishing a top five placing.

WARRINGAH 1 PENRITH 1

Warringah took full advantage of a lacklustre Penrith in the first half to lead from a brilliant Hassan El Khansa goal in the 34th minute.

A much improved Penrith in the second half began well and were soon level from a Darren Read shot after Danny Hinton's effort had been pushed away by the keeper.

Penrith pushed hard for a winner, but the Dolphins contained them and picked up a valuable point in the process.

GREYSTANES 0 WEST WANDERERS 0

David Apps kept a clean sheet in his 500th game for Greystanes at Mona Park on Sunday, but with Wests making most of the running his side would have liked something more from the game than the single point they earned, due more to sloppy finishing than anything else.

HILLS UNITED 1 STANMORE 1

Hills United were well on top in the first half at Cook Park on Saturday, but had to wait until the 45th minute to find the net, when Carson Cooper let fly from wide on the left with an unstoppable shot into the top right corner of Paul Kyprianou's net.

Stanmore, with Eddie Briscoe on at half time, looked more the part later on and went close several times before getting the equaliser in the last minute of the game.

A short corner by Nick Konstantinou played to Harry Danilidis along the byline saw Konstantinou's low cross turned in by George Maglis at the near post to earn an all important point for the visitors.

HILLS UNITED 1 BELMORE 3

Hills again began well the next day at Fred Caterson and were in front after twenty minutes when Kevin Lester tapped in a cross from Luke Allshorn, after some good lead up work by Bob Casserly and Adam Hagger.

Belmore stuck to their task and began to gain control in the second half, drawing level when Hills' substitute Andrew Bow turned the ball into his own net after some sustained Belmore pressure in the 72nd minute.

Marshall Soper put Belmore ahead in the 76th after a Jason Petrides corner had been flicked on by Ari Zafiras.

Jim Melissourgos made it three with a nice solo effort in the 84th, going past several defenders in the process and finishing cleverly.

ILLAWARRA LIONS 3 BATHURST 1

Illawarra made short work of Bathurst in Wollongong on Sunday, despite playing without a number of top-flight players.

Veteran Velemir Kupresak opened the account for the Lions in the 25th when he was on hand to tuck a loose ball away after a shot from Mile Sterjovski had been parried.

Then Sterjovski made it two in the 39th, after an individual effort, and three in the 65th following a good build up.

Bathurst replied late through Johns, but the Lions needed the win to shore up its First Division status, which is still in some doubt.

ILLAWARRA LIONS 0 BELMORE HERCULES 2

Belmore shocked Illawarra on Wednesday with a depleted and youthful side doing the damage at Ian McLellan Park.

Nathan Leiberman put Belmore one up in the 10th minute and Gaston Herrera made it two soon after the break, with Illawarra having no answer to the visitors sudden return to form.

EASTERN SUBURBS 0 AUBURN UNITED 1

A 49th minute penalty from Aydin Cetinay proved decisive for visitors Auburn at Wentworth Park on Sunday in one of the upsets of the round.

EASTERN SUBURBS 2 WEST WANDERERS 1

Easts had to work hard and left it late to subdue Wests at St George Stadium on Wednesday night.

Steve Lawrenson had Easts one up in the 5th minute, but a concerted effort by Wests saw Chris Senat put his side level in the 40th.

It was not until the last ten minutes that Michael Reda gave Easts the goal they needed to wrap up the game and keep Easts in third spot.

ROCKDALE 2 FAIRFIELD BULLS 4

Fairfield shocked Rockdale by leading early and then coming from 2-1 down to win 4-2, with three goals in the last ten minutes. However, the telling factor was the three players Rockdale lost to red cards late in the game.

Nihad Ahmed put the Bulls one up in the 13th minute, but Mohammed Sabra and Spase Najdoski gave Rockdale a good half time lead with goals just before the break.

Michael O'Brien, Grant McDonald and Danny Chakarovski were the players sent off.

Sasha Talevski in the 82nd and Ricky Giometti in the 89th did the damage in front of goal where nine men proved too few for Rockdale.

MIDWEEK AND WEEKEND PREVIEW RD 30:

The season has built up to a crescendo with so many issues yet to be decided.

Two very important games tomorrow night (Wednesday) feature sides involved in battles for one of the top five spots, and also one club trying to avoid the wooden spoon.

Greystanes take on Stanmore at Popondetta Park, with the Hawks aiming to oust Easts and Bathurst for the third spot in the finals as well as cementing a spot in the five.

The 'Stanes still need to win this, and their last game on Saturday against Rockdale at Nineveh Field will allow them to clamber over Illawarra Lions who are just above them and Penrith in 12th place.

At Mona Park, Warringah Dolphins are out to beat Belmore to steer away from the wooden spoon position, but Marshall Soper's Belmore know that a win here can lift the side into the five for the first time.

Belmore could win this and then beat Mount Pritchard and Rockdale in the games at Blick Oval in the two last days of the season.

Penrith meet Easts, at Cook Park St Marys, on Friday night in a crucial game for both clubs. Easts need the points to hang onto third spot, especially if Stanmore wins on Wednesday night. The Panthers could be awarded the game against Rockdale, which was abandoned a fortnight ago, when they led 3-0, but a win here would surely save them any possibility of relegation.

Auburn entertain Hills at Mona Park on Saturday in a game which will do little more than show what might have been for either side, who were fringe top five contenders all season, before they ran out of steam.

Sunday at Nineveh, Fairfield will want to win for their supporters but Illawarra Lions need points more and are going to take some holding.

Bathurst are likely to defeat Warringah at home to ensure a top five spot, while Minotaurs should account for Wests at Hurstville to celebrate the premiership in style.

Ryde and Stanmore should provide some good fare at T G Millner Field with the Hawks looking to the third spot, depending on their Wednesday result.

DE JESUS DESTROYS SAINTS

Blacktown City improved their top four prospects with a 3-1 away victory over St George on Saturday. The Demons, after a mid-season slump, have shown their true potential over recent weeks, and continued this form against the Saints. The visitors totally outclassed St George with brilliant play.

The talented Ivo De Jesus was involved in all three of Blacktown's goals. First, in the eighth minute when his penetrating through ball was fed to Dean Harding, who received the ball then slid it under Saints' keeper Robert Graskosi.

St George revived their hopes after 31 minutes with a great cross from the right flank, which cleared everyone except Daniel Cummins at the far post, who fired home the equaliser.

Disaster struck the home side on the stroke of half time. Trent Holmes received his marching orders whne he brought down Jeff Suzor in the area. De Jesus made no mistake to take the Demons in 2-1 ahead.

Five minutes into the second stanza Stuart Cleary increased the margin with a glancing header, from a well flighted free kick from you know who!

With nineteen minutes to the final whistle, the Saints were reduced to nine men, with the referee issuing a second yellow card to Joseph Ellut as he once more clattered into De Jesus.

All in all a tremendous victory for the Blacktown boys, with De Jesus, the former UTS Olympic player, playing a starring role.

TIGERS POUNCE OVER UNITED

By JOHN ECONOMOS

Leichhardt Tigers, with two second half goals, were able to pounce to within one point of League leaders Parramatta Eagles by defeating lowly placed Sydney United 2-0 last Sunday at Lambert Park.

The Tigers after 19 rounds recorded their 11th win of the season, one more than Parramatta Eagles.

United was left to battle with one man short over the last 12 minutes when lanky Paul Bilokapic was sent off by referee Simon Micallef for a crude tackle on Leichhardt's skipper Jeremy Pettenon.

Explosive paced, dimunitive striker John Buonavoglia drew first blood just five minutes after the break.

Latching onto a magnificent clean ball from his right wingback Tom Bazdaric, Buonavoglia from the halfway mark screamed down the right before veering infield and into the box to drill the target in the far left corner.

Fellow striker Mite Talcevski doubled the scoreline in the 59th minute in less spectacular style.

Central midfielder Martin Drienne brilliantly broke away on a solo raid from halfway, easily slicing past defenders to blast on target.

But United's brave goalkeeper Andrew Crews could only parry the danger. Talcevski being well positioned slammed the rebound into the target to break United's spine.

Late in the match again United's courageous goalkeeper denied the Tigers, this time from a point blank drive by Leichhardt's substitute David Blinoff

But the Tigers should have opened up United much earlier. Twenty minutes in, striker Damien Smith was left on a one-on-one situation with the 'keeper but weakly shot into his grateful hands.

Twelve minutes later Talcevski broke clear but again faced with only Crews, the ball bobbled badly and his shot screwed wide of the target.

The first session ended scoreless with some pathetic Soccer from both sides with many players seemingly having little pride in their work.

◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆

CANTERBURY outpaced and out thought a game but weakened Macarthur at Henson Park on Sunday. The 4-1 scoreline could have been greater but for some stout work by goalie David Hayes.

Zoran Illic and Steve Christoforidis had put the Berries two goals up by half time but the visiting Rams pulled one back eight minutes in to the second period.

Warren Hayward swung over a free kick to the far post where David Reid rose majestically to head home.

Canterbury exerted their superiority and it was no surprise when Juliano Damjano powered home from close range after a great sprint down the left flank by Jim Nikas, which resulted in a defence splitting cross.

One minute later the game was put beyond Macarthur as Brian Raeburn leaped higher than anyone else to nod home a well taken free kick.

Mathematically the Berries can still make the finals but that depends on results going their way.

Sutherland gamely fought on against Bankstown at Jensen Park to force a 1-1 draw. Both goals came late in the game.

Ray Younis got the first for the Lions in the 78th but two minutes later the Sharks were back on level terms through Greg Lerond.

The 2-2 draw at Melita Stadium between Parramatta Eagles and Bonnyrigg has opned up the minor premiership. Bonnyrigg could still sneak in as they have two to go and a superior goal difference in relation to the Eagles.

The Eagles had to claw back from a 2-0 deficit as the White Eagles had gone ahead, firstly through Javier Mancino three minutes before the break, and Robert Sacco in the 59th before Parramatta arrived on the scoreboard. It took just three minutes for Steve Karavatakis to reduce the arrears.

Sasho Petrovski levelled the game with 14 minutes to go. Both sides had to settle for the 2-2 draw.

★★★ SUPER LEAGUE ★★★

ROUND TWENTY TWO

Wednesday July 30

Canterbury M/ville v Bonnyrigg W. E. — St. George Stadium, 8.15pm
Sutherland Sharks v St.George Saints — Seymour Shaw Park, 8.15pm

Sunday August 3

St. George Saints v Bonnyrigg W. E. — St. George Stadium, 3pm
Blacktown City Demons v Sutherland Sharks — Gabbie Stadium, 3pm
Parramatta Eagles v Canterbury M/ville — Melita Stadium, 3pm
Central Coast v Leichhardt Tigers — Pluim Park, 3pm
Sydney United v Macarthur Rams — Sydney United Sports Ctr., 3pm

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YOUTH SPORTING INJURIES

A report was issued on July 20 by the Northern Sydney Area Health Service highlighting youth sport participation. It also provided new information about injuries sustained by youth while taking part in sport.

The study was wide-ranging, with 15,525 young people responding to the questionnaire. The report was compiled in partnership with the State's Sporting injuries Committee, the Department of Sport and Recreation and the Department of School Education.

Increasing participation in sport is a priority of each of the organisations involved in the research.

In fact, the report shows that 90 per cent of young people in NSW participated in some form of sport during the year of the study. This may only have been for fun, but was also in a club or at school.

"The study shows that youth participation levels in sport in NSW are high," said Alex Donaldson, the project officer for the report..

"The information contained in the report needs to be used to make sport safer, not only to attract more young people to participate but to ensure that those who are participating continue to do so."

In the study, basketball had the highest levels of participation (played by 27 per cent of sports participants), followed by swimming 25 per cent, soccer 22 per cent, tennis 20 per cent, netball 18 per cent, cricket 12 per cent, aerobics 12 per cent, rugby league 10 per cent, dancing 10 per cent, touch football 10 per cent, cycling 9 per cent, rugby union 8 per cent, surfing 8 per cent, athletics 8 per cent, and volleyball 8 per cent.

Rugby union had the highest proportion of injuries as a percentage of total participants, 36 per cent of those who played rugby union reported an injury in the previous six months, followed by rugby league 35 per cent, gymnastics 34 per cent, netball 33 per cent, hockey 32 per cent, AFL 31 per cent, grass skiing 31 per cent, soccer 25 per cent, horseriding 23 per cent, martial arts 23 per cent, basketball 21 per cent and athletics 21 per cent.

"It is important that the information in this report is not used to compare sports," Donaldson said.

"Each sport is unique and we need to expand and develop injury prevention initiatives that are appropriate for their particular sport."

Injury prevention specialist, Dr Jane Elkington, said that "Sports injury is a complex issue and factors such as exposure, severity, rate of injury, and the nature of the sport need to be considered carefully when planning a response to the issues raised."

Predictably some bodies came to the defence of their sport. Matt Carroll, the ARU's general manager of rugby, said the report was "completely flawed" because information was supplied retrospectively by the students, rather than by medical professionals.

He said, "How are (children) going to be able to differentiate between bruising and, say, a ligament strain, when that's something even the medical people have problems with? And what are their memories going to be like months after getting the injury?"

Dr Nathan Gibbs, from the Australian Rugby League, also condemned the report, describing it as "so unscientific it's not funny.

"For a start it doesn't look at injury rates and that's the most critical thing in any study," he said.

Representatives from NSW Basketball and NSW Netball also criticised the report's methodology.

Mr Donaldson said the report's organisers were experienced in sports injury and research and were "more than capable" of producing correct methodology to gather the broad information they were looking for.

High-Risk Sports:

Proportion of Participants Reporting Most

Recent Injury	% of Participants
Rugby Union	36%
Rugby League	35%
Gymnastics	34%
Netball	33%
Hockey	32%
AFL	31%
Grass Skiing	31%
Soccer	25%
Horse Riding	23%
Martial Arts	23%
Basketball	21%

Most Common Injuries	% of Injured
Bruising	36%
Muscle strain	32%
Joint/ligament strain	29%
Joint inflamation	20%
Bleeding	16%
Broken bones	11%
Dislocation	8%
Knockout	5%

QUEENSLAND XXXX LEAGUE

Coalstars	1	Rochedale Rov	1
Beenleigh	0	Brisbane Lions	1
B'Berg Waves	1	Wynnum	3
Brisbane City	5	Taringa Rovers	0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Brisbane City	19	10	6	3	34	22	36
Brisbane Lions	19	10	5	4	25	16	35
Taringa Rovers	19	10	3	6	35	22	33
B'Berg Waves	19	9	4	6	34	27	31
Rochedale Rov	19	7	6	6	32	28	27
Wynnum	19	6	1	12	29	42	19
Coalstars	19	5	2	12	22	38	17
Beenleigh	19	5	1	13	26	42	16

SP DIV 1N

Mitchelton	2	Olympic Utd	2
Eastern Subs	0	Grange Thistle	1
Newmarket	0	Pine Rivers Utd	0
Capalaba	5	The Gap	0
North Star	0	Albany Creek	1

Mitchelton 31, North Star 30, Albany Creek 28, Pine Rivers Utd 25, Olympic Utd 25, Eastern Subs 22, Newmarket 19, Capalaba 15, The Gap 15, Grange Thistle 10.

SP DIV 1S

Inala City	4	Souths Utd	0
Acacia Ridge	2	Toowoomba Utd	1
Ipsw St Helens	1	Rocklea Utd	1
Slacks Creek	2	Mt Gravatt	1

Toowoomba Utd 34, Mt Gravatt 27, Inala City 27, Slacks Creek 25, Rocklea Utd 21, Acacia Ridge 14, Souths Utd 13, Ipsw St Helens 11, Redlands Utd 5.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Premier League

ROUND 18

	1st	Res	U/18
Olympic Kingsway v Fremantle City	0-4	0-2	2-3
Dianella White Eagles v Swan IC	1-0	0-2	2-2
Inglewood Falcons v Floreat Athena	1-1	0-5	2-2
Sorrento v Perth	0-1	6-1	1-1
B'swater City Pant's v Stirling Mac	2-2	5-0	1-1

FIRST DIVISION

	1st	Res	U/18
Southside Utd v Ashfield Bunbury	3-3	6-0	0-3
Armadale v Bassendeon Caledonian	3-4	2-6	2-1
Leeming Strikers v Cockburn Utd	1-2	1-3	0-5
Balga v Perth City	0-1	3-1	3-9
Balcatta v North Lake	1-2	2-2	2-4
Stirling Suns v Queens Park	2-4	0-2	1-7
Wanneroo City v University	1-2	2-2	3-0

Cosmos broadening their horizons

Novell Canberra Cosmos have appointed Adrian Alston Technical Director of their coaching camps. These camps will be held four times a year, for both boys and girls. The first ones commence on September 29 in 16 centres.

They will be held in the ACT and also in city and country venues throughout southern NSW. Participants will be involved in a quality, professional coaching environment.

In addition, during January it is proposed to offer young players the opportunity to sample life as an apprentice professional for one residential week.

As Alston says,"It is important for young players to have as much time on the ball as possible. At our camps the emphasis is on developing ball skills — as well as having fun. There are over thirty thousand young Soccer players in the area we are covering and I have no doubt that we will introduce many future stars to serious Soccer.

Maybe some of them will go on to play for the Cosmos, maybe some will even play for Australia."

Alston: The Prince of Strikers

For those wondering just who Adrian Alston is, he was a star when Australian Soccer was brimful of talent.

During the 1960s and early 70s all of our best players were in Australia — we had no overseas based professionals at that stage Alston was the man to change that trend when he went, in 1974, to English First Division side Luton Town from Safeway (South Coast) United. It was an Australian record transfer of $25,000.

Additionally, Rale Rasic — the man who used Alston as his main striker on the road to the 1974 World Cup finals — rates him as the second best player in Soccer history.

"Ray Baartz was always my number one," recalls Rasic, "but 'Noddy' was number two. Alston was brilliant in the air and such a great striker."

In 1968 Adrian Alston was just another young English hopeful coming out to a new country from Preston in England, were he hadn't quite made it to the top. His brother Alex had been a first team regular at Preston North End, then a highly placed side, but Adrian, like a lot of others slipped out of the net.

No Prawn Cocktail, "I don't drink"

"I'll always remember arriving in Australia," he says nearly thirty years later. "It was the middle of summer in Wollongong but in England it was still freezing, and the day I arrived it was over the century mark. Trevor Birch picked me up at Sydney airport in this big limousine and on the way down to Wollongong we stopped off at Bulli Pass.

"I looked out over the fabulous beaches and scenery and thought, 'this is where I want to live'. Then we stopped off for something to eat and I got asked if I wanted a prawn 'cocktail' — but I didn't drink and I told Trevor that! I was stunned when we arrived at Wollongong and I was told that I was playing and to get my boots.

"By half time I was throwing up all over the dressing room and I thought I was having a nightmare — the other players didn't think so because they were all singing my name."

In his second league game he scored a hat-trick in South Coast's 7-2 demolition of Canterbury, and from there on his name was seldom out of the papers. By the end of his first NSW season he was the league's top scorer.

Adrian Alston: Brilliant player with the 1974 Socceroos.

In 1970 the then glamour club, St George, took him to Hurstville where he was three final cog in a forward line which included Ottie Abonyi, Allan Ainslie and the prolific scorer, Mike Denton.

Johnny Warren added a touch of class in the midfield of a team still rated as one of the best elevens ever seen in Australian Soccer.

Alston had been called up for the Socceroos the year before, making his debut in his adopted country's first ever win over a European country (against Greece). He went on to play 39 times in full internationals for Australia, scoring eight goals.

There is no doubt that that figure would have been much higher if he hadn't gone overseas at the height of his career, but in 1974 he was hot property, and the call of big time Soccer in England was too strong.

Munich 1974 propelled him onto a world stage and over the next few years he played for Luton Town, Cardiff City and the star-studded Tampa Bay Rowdies in the US. In 1977 Alston was brought to Canberra to star as a guest for Canberra City, then in its first ever national league season.

That spell also allowed him to play another four games for Australia as it chased an elusive back-to-back World Cup spot. Even though the Socceroos failed to qualify it still allowed Alston to depart the international scene in front of 90,000 hysterical fans in Iran.

Cruciate ligament damage saw an early end to a brilliant career, before he took up the coaching reigns at Wollongong City. Nevertheless, two hard seasons at a cash strapped Wolves side saw his head on the NSL coaching sacrificial altar.

These days Adrian Alston guides Illawarra Premier League side Port Kembla, and over the last few years has won everything that the local game has to offer. Now he is taking up a new challenge, one which he knows will see him bring some magic back to the game.

"I love coaching the kids," he said from his South Coast home. "I've had so much out of the game, now it is my chance to put something back in. The coaching camps will put junior Soccer really on the map and with the input from the Novell Canberra Cosmos I've still got a lot of goals to score."

NNSW

NBN League FIRSTS

Wallsend Red Devils	0	Hamilton Warriors	3
Highfields Wolves	10	Belmont Swansea Swans	0
Broadmeadow Magic	0	Cessnock Hornets	0
Toronto Awaba Stags	2	Weston Workers Bears	1
Easts Maitland	0	Edgeworth Eagles	2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Edgeworth Eagles	11	8	2	1	45	12	26
Broadmeadow Magic	12	8	2	2	20	11	26
Highfields Wolves	11	7	2	2	26	8	23
Hamilton Warriors	12	6	4	2	24	15	22
West W Bears	14	5	6	3	36	18	21
Toronto Awaba Stags	12	5	3	4	24	22	18
Easts Maitland	14	4	2	8	17	28	14
Cessnock Hornets	13	1	6	6	16	31	9
Wallsend Red Devils	12	1	2	9	14	34	5
Belmont S. Swans	11	1	1	9	6	49	4

Tooheys League FIRSTS

Thornton Park	1	Singleton Strikers	1
Manning Mustangs	0	Lambton Jaffas	8
Sth Cardiff Gunners	3	Budgewoi Budgies	0
Dudley/Redhead	5	Tingira Eagles	0
Stockton Sharks	0	W/Wallsend B'Bells	3
Pasminco Roosters	3	Beresfield Utd	1

South Cardiff Gunners 42, Lambton Jaffas 33, West Wallsend Bluebells 27, Dudley – Redhead Utd 26, Beresfield United 25, Budgewoi Budgies 24, Thornton Park 24, Pasminco Roosters 18, Manning Mustangs 12, Stockton Sharks 10, Singleton Strikers 9, Tingira Eagles 3.

ACT Soccer Federation

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— By GRAHAM COOKE

SUNS UNDER PROMOTION CLOUD

With the ACT season into its final quarter, the battle for promotion and relegation is hotting up, both on and off the field.

If it was left to the mechanics of who finishes top and bottom, then the probability is Tuggeranong United (four points adrift at the bottom before last weekend's games) will be replaced in the Premier League by Capital City Suns (eight points clear at the top of State League Division 1).

But things are seldom that simple in ACT Soccer.

Already sources within the Premier League are whispering their opposition to the Suns joining the elite. Their reasoning lies in the fact the club only came into existence at the beginning of the season; that it is essentially a breakaway from Premier League outfit Queanbeyan City, and as such competes for the resources of the Macedonian community, and that it does not have sufficient depth for the three grades required in the Premier League.

Finally, the sources say, it should not replace United, a community based club with a long established junior program which many feel will suffer if the senior team is not performing at the highest local level.

The depth argument has wider implications. The Suns' reserve team languishes at the foot of its competition at the same time as the firsts are running away with the State League Division One title; it does not have a youth team, although one must be found before it can be considered for a Premier League place.

However, other clubs can be accused of neglecting the lower grades, including Queanbeyan City. While the firsts, largely through the abilities of a handful of talented players led by Ilja Prenzoski, are steering clear of bottom place, the reserve team almost counts it a victory if it escapes without a double-figure beating these days.

Again sources feel it is time this was addressed, with one suggestion that a club at least has its Premier League status reviewed if it finishes bottom three years running in either reserve or youth grade.

Soccer Canberra executive officer Robert Bennett declined to comment in detail on the controversy. "It is the clubs who make the rules, and in the end it is they who will decide if there are changes needed," he said.

Ilja Prenzoski: Talented player with Queanbeyan City.

Chequered History

PROMOTION and relegation has had a chequered history in Canberra Soccer. Until the mid-80s what is now the Premier League and the State League were run as separate competitions with very little crossover.

In 1987 a merger was effected with movement between the various divisions. Some clubs, including Weston Creek and Olympic, were relegated and battled their way back; others, like Narrabundah, went down never to be sighted again.

For a spell under the presidency of Ron Watkins, the ups and downs were suspended in favour of the ill-fated 'major clubs' concept. It was good fortune for long-standing Premier members Canberra Deakin and Juventus, who both finished bottom during this time.

Now promotion and relegation is back — although it was not invoked last year when State League champion ANU declined to go up — but the arguments surrounding it remain.

Young Rockets for Olyroos Challenge

Canberra's best youth players will have the chance to impress Olyroos coach Raul Blanco when the Young Rockets take on the touring Olympic team in Canberra on August 20.

The game has been organised at the end of the Olyroos' 40-day tour up and down the East Coast of Australia, the first major venture in the team's quest for gold at the Sydney 2000 Games.

Young Rockets coach, Jimmy Bland, admitted it would be an uphill task for members of his squad to break into Olyroos selection, "but in matches like these it could just happen that you're the right man in the right spot at the right time," he said.

Certainly it will be a 'nothing to lose' situation for youngsters of the calibre of Justin Webb, Oscar Zamora and Matt Kemp, who had been shining for their respective clubs in the ACT Premier League this season.

The Young Rockets:

STEVE Wilkinson, Adrian Parragali, Justin Webb, Joel Curtis (Weston Creek), Ian Jeffreys (Monaro), Tim Francis, Scott Manson, Matthew Kemp (Belconnen United), Oscar Zamora, Pino Seminara, John Glass (Gungahlin Juventus), Gabby Exposito, Jose Exposito (Olympic), Michael Barac, Anthony Barac (Canberra Deakin), Manuel Sermano (Canberra City).

In addition, Stuart Camera and Geoff Howarth (Belconnen United) and David Palywoda (Olympic) have been added to the squad for this game.

YOUNG INSPIRES OLYMPIC

By GRAHAM COOKE

Olympic consolidated its place in the Novell ACT Premier League's top four by edging out Canberra Deakin 1-0 at Majura Oval on Sunday.

It was a contest befitting two teams who enjoy their football: fast, free-flowing and with a fair measure of goal mouth incident. If the goals were missing, it was mainly because both defences were at the top of their game.

That was largely due to two of the league's most consistent veterans, Andrew Young and Luciano Fabrizio, who used to be team-mates in Deakin's NSW Super League days.

Young was often spectacular in Olympic's cause, notably in one incident shortly after half time when he bicycle-kicked a shot from Robert Godzic to safety. At the other end, Fabrizio's contribution to Deakin was less obvious, but certainly just as valuable as he constantly marshalled and controlled the men around him.

Young's only mistake came in the first 10 minutes as he allowed Peter Buljan to get the better of him, but it went unpunished as the young striker's shot was well saved by goalkeeper Paul Jones.

It was always going to be a game where fate — and a single goal — would decide the issue, and it happened in the 42nd minute. An Olympic attack appeared to be breaking down under weight of numbers when youngster Gabby Exposito let fly with a fierce drive at the red wall.

The ball stuck somebody, whether friend or foe is unclear, and the deflection was too good for goalkeeper Barney Smith who could only watch it into the net.

Both sides continued to make chances. A full-blooded drive from Elliott Zwangobani was well saved by Smith, and in a last desperate flurry, a succession of attempts by Buljan, Mark Djikic, Tommy Milin and Ulyssis Da Silva were either blocked by Olympic defenders or saved by Jones.

Olympic player-coach Ray Junna, a major contributor in his team's midfield, said Exposito's new role playing just behind the front men was paying dividends. "He's had a goal in the last three games," he said.

"I thought we were just a little flat today ... there were too many people taking that extra touch on the ball, and maybe that was because we weren't moving into good positions early enough.

"But it's another win, and we'll take the three points."

NOVELL ACT PREMIER LEAGUE

Gungahlin J'tus	8	Q'beyan City	0
Weston Creek	2	Canberra City	1
Tuggeranong Utd	0	Belconnen Utd	2
Monaro	4	Uniof Canberra	0
Olympic	1	Can Deakin	0

	P	W	SD	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bel Utd	15	12	2	1	0	39	7	41
W Creek	15	10	2	0	3	49	23	34
Olympic	15	10	1	0	4	38	17	32
C Deakin	15	7	3	0	5	28	20	27
C City	15	8	1	0	6	41	28	26
Monaro	15	8	1	0	6	32	22	26
Juventus	15	6	2	1	6	31	19	23
Uni-Can	14	2	0	1	11	11	37	7
Q'beyan	15	2	0	1	12	11	62	7
Tugg'nong	14	1	0	0	13	11	56	3

Leading Scorers to July 20:

21 S Lazzari (Weston Creek)
11 Cattanach (Olympic)
Pangallo (Belconnen United)
N Popovich (Olympic)
8 Barac (Canberra Deakin)
P Phommaseisy (Canberra City)
6 Buljan (Canberra Deakin)
M Lazzari (Weston Creek)
Serena (Monaro)

Reserves: Gungahlin Juventus 3 Queanbeyan City 2, Weston Creek 2 Canberra City 0, Tuggeranong United 0 Belconnen United 4, Monaro 4 University of Canberra 1, Olympic 1 Canberra Deakin 2.

Points: Belconnen United 42, Weston Creek 35, Canberra Deakin 34, Olympic 33, Monaro 25, Canberra City 23, University of Canberra 20, Tuggeranong United 6, Gungahlin Juventus 6, Queanbeyan City 3.

Youth: Gungahlin Juventus 7 Queanbeyan City 0, Weston Creek 6 Canberra City 0, Tuggeranong United 1 Belconnen United 7, Monaro 3 University of Canberra 1, Olympic 3 Canberra Deakin 4.

Points: Gungahlin Juventus 38, Weston Creek 38, Canberra Deakin 38, Belconnen United 31, Olympic 22, Monaro 20, Canberra City 16, University of Canberra 15, Tuggeranong United 4, Queanbeyan City 4.

STATE LEAGUE

DIVISION 1

CapCity Suns	5	Def Academy	2
Burns Club	1	ANU	1
Uni of Canberra	4	White Eagles	0
Belconnen United	0	Cooma	2

	P	W	SD	D	L	F	A	Pts
C.C.Suns	18	15	1	0	2	70	29	47
Cooma	18	13	0	0	5	58	25	39
Burns C	17	11	1	0	5	49	22	35
ANU	17	11	1	0	5	48	29	35
Bel United	18	8	2	0	8	40	32	28
W Eagles	16	4	0	0	12	14	47	12
Def-Acad	15	2	1	0	12	18	59	8
Uni-Can	17	1	0	0	16	12	66	3

Leading scorers to July 19:

20 Lemezina (Capital City Suns)
17 Tonini (Cooma)
13 Blazevski (Capital City Suns)
12 Bryett (Belconnen United)
Van Der Plaat (Cooma)
Kostevski (Capital City Suns)
10 Wiseman (ANU)
McLeod (Burns Club)
9 Cringle (Burns Club)

Reserves: Belconnen United 2 Cooma 1, Defence Academy 4 Capital City Suns 2, White Eagles 3 University of Canberra 1, ANU 2 Burns Club 1.

Points: ANU 46, Belconnen United 44, Burns Club 40, Cooma 25, White Eagles 23, Defence Academy 20, University of Canberra 13, Capital City Suns 2.

Youth: Radford 3 Defence Academy 2, White Eagles 0 Marist 4, Belconnen United 2 Tuggeranong United 0.

Points: Belconnen United 51, Belwest-Olympic 38, Radford 33, Tuggeranong United 27, White Eagles 24, Defence Academy 17, Marist 16.

DIVISION 2: Ginninderra 6 Burns Club 2, ANU B 4 Calwell Valley 1, ANU A 4 Wollindilly Wanderers 3, Canberra City 3 Weston Creek 0.

Points: ANU A 36, ANU B 36, Wollindilly Wanderers 33, Ginninderra 32, Calwell Valley 23, Belconnen United 23, Burns Club 20, Canberra City 15, Weston Creek 9. Note: Tuggeranong United withdrawn.

ACT Soccer Federation

♦♦♦♦♦

A QUALITY striker was the difference between Weston Creek and Canberra City in a crucial clash for both sides, writes Nick Guoth.

Weston's Steve Lazzari added two more goals to his total in the 2-1 win. His first from a Nabil Adhami cross only five minutes in, while the winner came from a defensive error three minutes into time added on at the end of the game.

Pat Phommaseisy grabbed City's only score after a superb ball from Leo Langone. City played very well, and threatened on numerous occasions to take the lead, but the lack of a true finisher showed.

Weston were a bit flat after its great win over Deakin last week, but this result has practically secured second place and the first top-four finish in the club's history.

NOVELL ACT Premier League

Sunday, August – Round 16

Queanbeyan City v Belconnen United .....RIVERSIDE
Canberra City v University of Canberra .....MAJURA OVAL
Weston Creek v Olympic .....WODEN PARK
Gungahlin Juventus v Monaro .....HAWKER OVAL
Canberra Deakin v Tuggeranong United .....DEAKIN OVAL

YOUTH 11AM. 1PM. FIRSTS 3PM.

STATE LEAGUE

DIVISION 1

Saturday, August 2 – Round 19

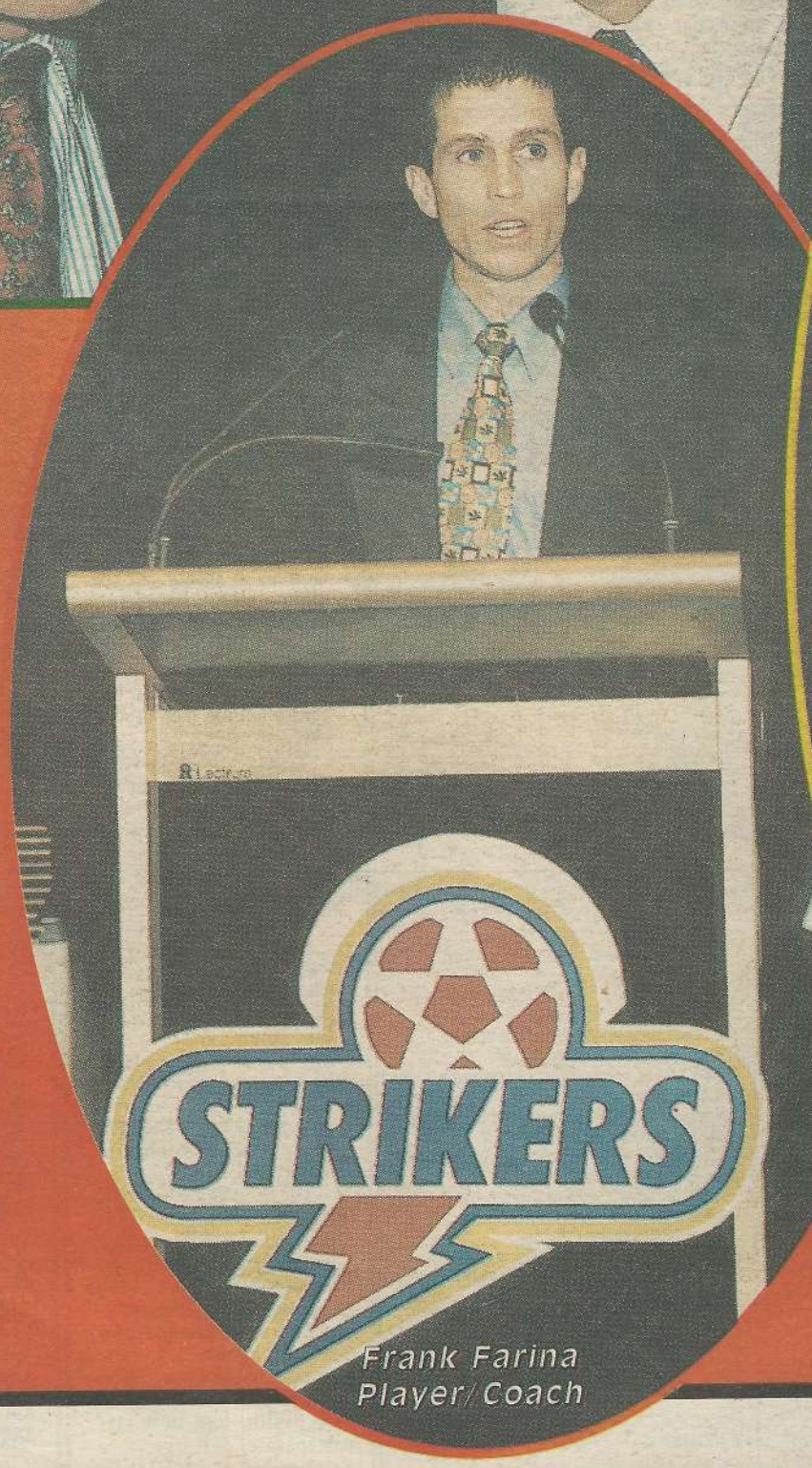
Defence Academy b Belconnen United ..ADDISON ROAD
Cooma v University of Canberra .....NIJONG OVAL
White Eagles v Burns Club .....WODEN PARK
Capital City Suns v ANU .....O'CONNOR OVAL

RESERVES 1PM. FIRSTS 3PM.

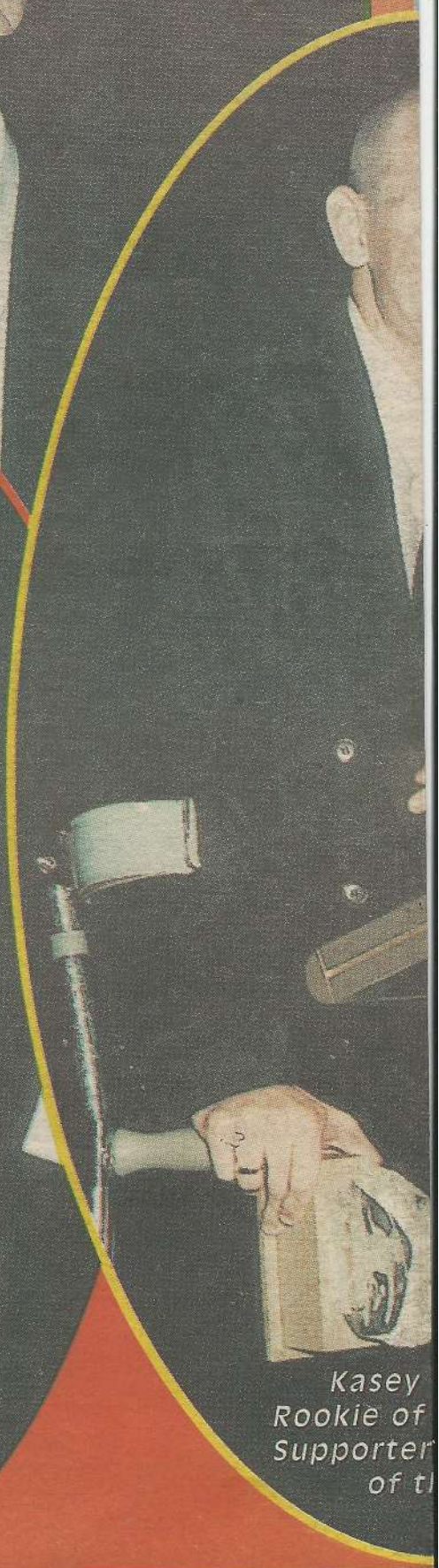
Brisbane Strikers Pr

ERICSSON Cu

Neville Wran
President of Soccer
Australia with Clem
Jones Chairman of
Brisbane Strikers



Frank Farina
Player/Coach



Kasey
Rookie of
Supporter
of t

Australian
SOCCER

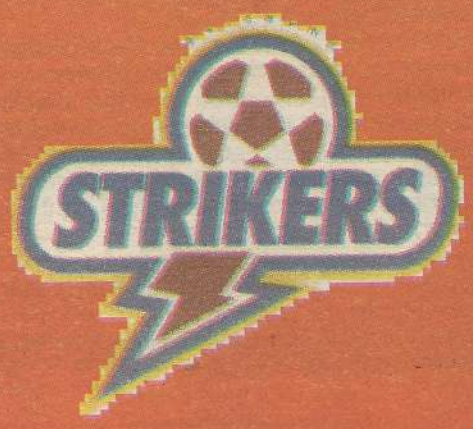
esentation Night 1997

UP WINNERS

Brisbane Strikers Players L-R: Chay Hews, Matt Bell, Sean Cranney, Troy Cranney

Wehrman
the Year and
s Club Player
e Year

Troy Cranney
SSL O'Brien Player of the Year and Players' Player of the Year



Victorian Soccer Federation

PORT MELBOURNE SHARKS 1
THOMASTOWN ZEBRAS 2

By DWYGHT TUFFNELL

Thomastown Zebras guaranteed themselves a place in next year's Premier League with a 2-1 win over Port Melbourne Sharks.

The Zebras had looked likely to avoid the drop in recent weeks and the three points gained on Sunday means they'll be back next season.

It was the home side who took the lead however, Con Argyriou scoring in the eighth minute when he headed in Nick Papadopoulos' free kick.

Thomastown responded with a goal shortly before half time. Tony Lingurovski's near post cross was converted by Nick Lazarevski.

Lazarevski profitted again from a Lingurovski cross, aided by some dithering Port Melbourne defence, to score his second in the 67th minute.

Papadopoulos had the chance to draw the Sharks level in the 73rd minute.

After playing a neat one-two with Nick Tsaltas, Papadopoulos could only slam his shot against an upright.

Sharks: Frangos, Argyriou, Dimitrelos, Kyriakopoulos (Jackson), Latinopoulos, Vargas, Pappas, Mason, Strapelias (Daglis), Tsaltas, Papadopoulos,
Zebras: Trenkovski, V.De Propertis, P.Della Rocca, D.Della Rocca, Iacovitti, Nastevski, Lazarevski, Gasparini (Boschini), Bichler (Arisis), Lingurovski (Giovaniello), Cuculevski.
Referee: R.Caminiti.
Votes: 3- Nastevski (TZ), 2- Iacovitti (TZ), 1- Vargas (PM)

SUNSHINE GEORGIES 2
MELTON REDS 1

By John Rigas

Sunshine Georgies escaped with a hard fought 2-1 victory over relegated Melton Reds at Chaplin Reserve on Sunday.

Sunshine's Sash Markovski continued his scoring spree with another two goals, taking his tally for the year to 22.

Markovski's first arrived in the 10th minute from the penalty spot after Anthony Magnacca was fouled by Gunay Kuyucuogullari.

Two minutes before the interval Melton were on level terms. John Carter also converted a penalty when Tamer Simsek was brought down by Bojo Jevdjevic.

Melton fought hard in the second half in search of a winner, but failed to find the elusive goal and Markovski completed the scoring when he headed past Louie Makriagiannis in the 70th minute.

Markovski struck the crossbar in the 47th minute with a sizzling shot as did Melton's Tamer Simsek five minutes before full time.

Georgie: Jevdjevic, Branov (Trpcevski), Makris, Kanesoulis, Field, Cassar (Stojanovski), Dragicevic, Magnacca, Markovski, Vassallo (Psonis), De Bono.
Red: Makriaglannis, Bosevski, Saveski, M.Mustafa, Ergin, Hulusi, Yetismis, Carter, T.Simsek, Kuyucuogullari, Yurcheshen (Niyazi)
Referee: E.Stathopoulos
Votes: 3- Dragicevic (SG), 2- Field (SG), 1- Ergin (MR)

NORTH GEELONG 1
SPRINGVALE WHITE EAGLES 2

By Roy Hay

North Geelong's tenure of a place in the Victorian Premier League came to an end last weekend.

Relegation had always been likely after North lost its opening eight matches but was finally confirmed, ending six years at the top level of Victorian soccer.

Springvale was always the better team and much of the game was played in North's half.

North seemed to give the ball away too easily putting the defence under almost continuous pressure, though as Ivan Ljubicic and Stephen McAuliffe stood up to that effectively until the 27th minute when Jim Gacovski got clear down the right and his cross was headed home by Danny Gnjidic.

Just over an hour had gone when Springvale extended its lead, as Gacovski and Gnjidic combined again for a second goal.

In 77 minutes North received a penalty for hand ball in the area, and though Robert Brian parried Grgo Saric's kick, the youngster slotted home the rebound.

But that was North's last effort and the match ended as it begun with Springvale in full control.

Warriors: Cagalj, Bot, Medved, Ljubicic, Cosic, McAuliffe, G.Skoko, G.Saric, Petrovski (Stolica), Deak, Krajina.
White Eagles: Brian, M.Marinkovic, Rikanovic, Burlak, Kovacevic, R.Marinkovic, Gnjidic, Nikolic, Mladenovic, Mlinar, Gacovski.
Referee: H.Anaz
Votes: 3- Gnjidic (SWE), 2- Gacovski (SWE), 1- Ljubicic (NG)

GREEN GULLY CAVALIERS 0
ALTONA MAGIC 1

By Zoran Milenkovski

Altona Magic moved four points clear at the top with a 1-0 win over Green Gully Cavaliers on Sunday night.

Nick Georgopoulos' 68th minute strike was enough for Magic to take the three points, and a handy lead on top with two games left.

Sash Becvinovski combined with Georgopoulos for the goal, playing a terrific one-two that split the Gully defence wide open.

Green Gully had its chances, Daniel Genovesi coming close on two occasions particularly in the last minute when he volleyed over the crossbar through a packed penalty area.

The Cavaliers, who have not won for seven games, face a real battle to hang onto one of the spots in the top five that would guarantee them a double chance.

Cavaliers: Vella, Spiteri, Sean Douglas, Cimino, Waddell, Armstrong, Cuzzupe (Stojcevski), Suric, Neceski (Steve Douglas), Genovesi, Babic.
Magic: McGrath, Markovski, Becvinovski, Kutlesovski, Jolevski, Madarovski (Rusmir), Cvetkovski, Micevski, Georgopoulos, Fak (Atanasovski), Runje.
Refere : J.Blaney
Votes: 3- Runje (AM), 2- Genovesi (GG), 1- Georgopoulos (AM)

BULLEEN INTER KINGS 2
HEIDELBERG UNITED 0

By George Koukeris

Bulleen Inter Kings kept up the pressure on the rest of the top five with a 2-0 victory over Heidelberg United at the Veneto Club on Sunday.

Only 10 minutes into the game, Heidelberg seemed ready to steamroll Bulleen and Agim Sherifovski and Peter Tsolakis applied the pressure with shots that 'keeper Sean Keogh kept out.

Bulleen found the target in the 25th minute when Anthony Grbac drove a long ball to Damian Guglielmi who fired a powerful shot that deflected off Theo Alexiou for an own goal.

The Kings were the better side in the second stanza and took over the match. It came as no surprise when, in the 58th minute, Bulleen increased its lead.

A brilliant drive by Eric Hollingsworth fell to Damon Collina who set up Mark Bresciano who finished the move off.

Heidelberg desperately tried to climb back, but an inexperienced strike force failed to finish off the many attacks.

Going with the three points were Heidelberg's slim chances of making the finals.

Kings: Keogh, Stojcevski, Kuleski, Tsiakos, Mazzini, Tartaglia, D.Collina, Bresciano, Grbac, Hollingsworth, Gugliemi.

United: Clarke, Alexiou (Stefanidis), Medjedovic, Tsoumerkas, Hasler, Svigos, Tsolakis, Anastasiou, Sherifovski, Jugovic (Vouloumanos), MacNicol.

Referee: P.Ralevski
Votes: 3- Bresciano (BK), 2- D.Collina (BK), 1- Hollingsworth (BK)

Healthy Diet — Try It"

Premier League Rd 25

Sunday August 3

Springvale White Eagles v Sunshine Georgies — Serbian Sports Centre, kick off 3.00pm
Melton Reds v Bulleen Inter Kings — MacPherson Park, kick off 3.00pm
Heidelberg United v St Albans Saints — Olympic Village, kick off 3.00pm
Preston Lions v Port Melbourne Sharks — Goodyear Stadium, kick off 3.00pm
Thomastown Zebras v Green Gully Cavaliers — Partridge Reserve, kick off 3.00pm
Altona Magic v Fawkner Blues — Paisley Park, kick off 3.00pm
Bentleigh Greens v North Geelong Warriors — Kingston Heath Soccer Complex, kick off 3.00pm

Victorian Soccer Federation

STATE LEAGUE RESULTS

DIVISION ONE — Round 19
Northcote City 2 - Kingston City 0
Doncaster Rovers 2 - Lalor United 2
Broadmeadows City 0 - South Dandenong 6
Richmond 1 - Western Suburbs 3
Westvale 6 - Westgate 2
Springvale City 3 - Maroondah Arrows 0
Werribee City 2 - Moorabbin City 2
Table — South Dandenong 46, Westvale 45, Moorabbin City 43, Richmond 38, Western Suburbs 38, Kingston City 31, Springvale City 27, Werribee City 24, Lalor United 22, Northcote City 20, Doncaster Rovers 18, Westgate 13, Maroondah Arrows 11, Broadmeadows City 10.

DIVISION TWO — Round 19
Regent Bulla 3 - Altona City 1
Frankston Pines 3 - Bell Park 1
Essendon Bruns. Royals 1 - Yarraville/Glen Eira 3
Altona East 2 - Knox City 0
Mooroolbark 3 - East Richmond 1
Old Scotch Waverley 0 - Frankston Strikers 2
Ringwood City 1 - Oakleigh 0
Table — Ringwood City 46, Altona East 42, Frankston Strikers 39, Oakleigh 38, Yarraville/Glen Eira 28, Altona City 26, Mooroolbark 26, Regent Bulla 26, Knox City 25, Essendon Bruns. Royals 21, Old Scotch Waverley 18, East Richmond 18, Frankston Pines 15, Bell Park 5.

DIVISION THREE — Round 19
North Coburg United 5 - Cranbourne 0
South Caulfield 1 - South Werribee 5
Banyule City 1 - Chelsea 1
Nunawading City 0 - Keilor Park 2
Geelong 1 - Diamond Valley United 2
Melbourne City 2 - South Springvale 0
Fitzroy City 2 - Pascoe Vale 0
Table — Cranbourne 42, South Springvale 39, Chelsea 33, Melbourne City 31, Geelong 30, Keilor Park 23, North Coburg United 22, Pascoe Vale 22, South Werribee 21, South Caulfield 21, Banyule City 21, Fitzroy City 21, Diamond Valley United 18, Nunawading City 5.

DIVISION FOUR — Round 18
Stonnington City 2 - Keysborough 2
Langwarrin 2 - Geelong Rangers 0
Seaford United 0 - Clifton Hill United 1
Moreland City 6 - Monbulk 1
Corio 3 - Sandringham City 2
Lalor 0 - Sunbury United 2
Sunshine Heights 2 - Williamstown 3
Table — Keysborough 43, Stonnington City 42, Langwarrin 39, Williamstown 34, Sunshine Heights 31, Sandringham City 31, Moreland City 28, Clifton Hill United 27, Geelong Rangers 24, Sunbury United 23, Corio 19, Seaford United 12, Lalor 12, Monbulk 4.

***PROVISIONAL* DIVISION ONE — Round 18**
Endeavour United 1 - South Wantirna 2
Doveton 0 - Ballarat 2
Brandon Park 2 - North Sunshine Eagles 2
Lyndale United 1 - Melton 1
Mitcham United 1 - Springvale Condors 0
Knox Park 0 - Glenroy 2
Croxton Park 5 - Sunshine Blues 1
Table — South Wantirna 43, Melton 41, Croxton Park 40, Knox Park 38, Lyndale United 34, North Sunshine Eagles 26, Endeavour United 22, Springvale Condors 21, Sunshine Blues 21, Brandon Park 19, Glenroy 16, Mitcham United 16, Ballarat 10, Doveton 1.

DIVISION TWO — Round 16
Brunswick City 2 - Riversdale 2
South Yarra 4 - Meadow Park 1
Keon Park 0 - Sydenham Park 2
Hoppers Crossing 2 - Templestowe Eagles 2
Waverley Wanderers 4 - Braeside United 1
Berwick City - bye
Table — Riversdale 33, Sydenham Park 31, South Yarra 30, Keon Park 28, Templestowe Eagles 26, Brunswick City 20, Hoppers Crossing 16, Berwick City 12, Braeside United 10, Meadow Park 10, Waverley Wanderers 7.

DIVISION THREE Metro — Round 16
Dandenong 1 - Uni. of Melb. Blues 1
Melbourne University 4 - Camberwell Grammar 0
Newborough/Yallourn 1 - Ashburton 0
Keilor United 2 - Elwood City 2
Monash University 2 - Ringwood Rovers 1
Morwell Pegasus - bye
Table — Newborough/Yallourn 38, Morwell Pegasus 32, Uni. of Melb. Blues 27, Dandenong 25, Ashburton 20, Melbourne University 18, Monash University 18, Camberwell Grammar 13, Ringwood Rovers 12, Keilor United 10, Elwood City 9.

DIVISION THREE North/West — Round 16
North Glenroy 0 - Broadmeadows United 3
Mill Park 2 - Watsonia Heights 1
Somerton City 3 - West Preston 0
Northern United 2 - Whittlesea United 0
North Reservoir 1 - Brimbank 2
Latrobe University 1 - Darebin United 2
Table — Broadmeadows United 36, Latrobe University 33, Somerton City 31, Brimbank 29, Darebin United 29, Northern United 25, Mill Park 20, North Glenroy 16, North Reservoir 15, Watsonia Heights 14, Whittlesea United 10, West Preston 4.

DIVISION THREE Sth/East — Round 16
Flemington Falcons 1 - Collingwood City 4
Endeavour Hills 0 - Dingley City 2
Ivanhoe United 5 - Parkmore 1
East Kew 3 - Monash City 2
Thornbury United - bye
Noble Park - bye
Table — Dingley City 39, Collingwood City 26, Noble Park 21, East Kew 15, Flemington Falcons 13, Ivanhoe United 13, Thornbury United 13, Endeavour Hills 13, Monash City 12, Parkmore 10.

"Healthy Diet — Try It" PREMIER LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Altona Magic	24	13	8	3	41	16	47
Bentleigh Greens	24	12	7	5	63	35	43
Green Gully Cav	24	11	9	4	37	19	42
Preston Lions	24	12	6	6	43	28	42
Bulleen Inter Kings	24	12	6	6	41	31	42
Springvale W.E.	24	11	7	6	41	34	40
Heidelberg United	24	10	4	10	42	37	34
St Albans Saints	24	9	7	8	38	37	34
Sunshine Georgies	24	9	5	10	48	52	32
Port Melbourne	24	9	3	12	40	39	30
Thomastown Zebras	24	8	4	12	36	39	28
Fawkner Blues	24	6	7	11	35	45	25
Nth Geelong Warr.	24	4	4	16	22	56	16
Melton Reds	24	2	3	19	27	87	9

Leading Scorers:
22 – S.Markovski (Sunshine Georgies)
17 – Becvinovski (Altona Magic)
15 – Van Egmond (Bentleigh Greens)
14 – Nilo (Bentleigh Greens) (5 goals for Sunshine Georgies)
13 – Gnjidic (Springvale White Eagles)
11 – Genovesi (Green Gully Cavaliers)
Babic (Green Gully Cavaliers)
I. Colina (St Albans Saints)
Donev (Preston Lions)

Pascoe Vale SPORTSCENE Leading Votes:
25 – Van Egmond (Bentleigh Greens)
21 – Jolevski (Altona Magic)
19 – Filiposki (Preston Lions))
16 – Svigos (Heidelberg United)
Mladenovic (Springvale White Eagles)
15 – Nilo (Bentleigh Greens)
I.Colina (St Albans Saints)

STATE /PROVISIONAL LEAGUE

DIVISION 1 — ROUND 20

Saturday August 2
South Dandenong v Doncaster Rovers
Moorabbin City v Northcote City
Lalor United v Werribee City

Sunday August 3
Westgate v Richmond
Western Suburbs v Broadmeadows City
Kingston City v Springvale City
Maroondah Arrows v Westvale

DIVISION 2 ROUND 20

Saturday August 2
Knox City v Essendon Bruns. Royals
Yarraville/Glen Eira v Frankston Pines
Bell Park v Regent Bulla
Oakleigh v Old Scotch Waverley
Frankston Strikers v Mooroolbark
Altona East v East Richmond
Altona City v Ringwood City

DIVISION 3 ROUND 20

Saturday August 2
Keilor Park v Banyule City
Chelsea v South Caulfield
South Werribee v North Coburg United
Pascoe Vale v Melbourne City
South Springvale v Geelong
Diamond Valley United v Nunawading City
Cranbourne v Fitzroy City

DIVISION 4 ROUND 20

Saturday August 2
Monbulk v Seaford United
Clifton Hill United v Langwarrin
Geelong Rangers v Stonnington City
Williamstown v Lalor
Sunbury United v Corio
Sandringham City v Moreland City
Keysborough v Sunshine Heights

PROVISIONAL DIVISION 1 ROUND 19

Saturday August 2
Croxton Park v Doveton
Ballarat v Endeavour United
South Wantirna v Knox Park
Glenroy v Mitcham United
Springvale Condors v Lyndale United
Melton v Brandon Park
Sunshine Blues v North Sunshine Eagles

DIVISION 2 ROUND 17

Saturday August 2
Berwick City v Brunswick City
Riversdale v Hoppers Crossing
Templestowe Eagles v Keon Park
Sydenham Park v South Yarra
Waverley Wanderers v Meadow Park
Braeside United - bye

DIVISION 3 METRO ROUND 17

Saturday August 2
Monash University v Dandenong
Morwell Pegasus v Keilor United
Elwood City v Newborough/Yallourn
Ashburton v Melbourne University
Ringwood Rovers v Camberwell Grammar
Uni. of Melb. Blues - bye

DIVISION 3 NTH/WEST ROUND 17

Sunday August 3
Latrobe University v Mill Park
Watsonia Heights v North Glenroy
Broadmeadows United v North Reservoir
Northern United v Brimbank
Whittlesea United v Somerton City
Darebin United v West Preston

DIVISION 3 STH/EAST ROUND 17

Sunday August 3
East Kew v Endeavour Hills
Dingley City v Flemington Falcons
Collingwood City v Ivanhoe United
Parkmore v Noble Park
Monash City - bye
Thornbury United - bye

This weeks Radio 3AB 'Big Match' match of the day is Heidelberg United v St Albans Saints. 3AB can be found at 1116 on the AM dial and the program runs from 2.30pm to 5.30pm.

"Healthy Diet — Try It" PREMIER LEAGUE RESULTS

Proudly sponsored by Diabetes Australia with funds provided by VicHealth

Round 24 Results: St Albans Saints 1 (Karl) – Preston Lions 1 (Drogriski) • North Geelong Warriors 1 (Saric) –Springvale White Eagles 2 (Gnjidic 2) • Fawkner Blues 1 (og) – Bentleigh Greens 1 (Alagiozidis) • Port Melbourne Sharks 1 (Argyriou) – Thomastown Zebras 2 (Lazarevski 2) • Bulleen Inter Kings 2 (og, Bresciano) – Heidelberg United 0 • Sunshine Georgies 2 (Markovski 2) – Melton Reds 1 (Carter) • Green Gully Cavaliers 0 – Altona Magic 1 (Georgopoulos)

The Victorian Soccer Federation suppoorts and encourages a smoke free environment

Rising Stars

Top Games In Area Finals

In this year's Topper Bill Turner Cup, the Area Finals have been outstanding.

Indicative of this trend was reported in ABSW recently by Graham Cooke when covering the ACT and NSW surrounds Area 13 final between Kaleen and Belconnen.

The match was of high standard, had a fair sized crowd, was well controlled by Phil Grabham and everyone was on tenterhooks until the final whistle.

Kaleen HS 2, Dean Bailey (2)
Belconnen 1 (Rohan Coleman)

McGuire stars in Riverina 'Battle'

THE much awaited clash between Albury High and Wade High (Griffiths) in the Riverina, North Victoria, gave the good crowd plenty of entertainment.

Both sides had had good wins leading up to their Area decider.

The for and against saw Albury 26-2 and Wade 32-2, but Albury had to include a match against the powerful Kooringal High School from Wagga Wagga. Last year, Kooringal finished in equal third place in the whole competition.

Both coaches, John Sears from Wade and Geoff Raisin of Albury had every reason to be proud of their charges. Wade were well served by the best player on the ground, Jacob McGuire, ably supported by Gavin Zuccato and Michael Johns.

Adam Griffiths, Daniel Martin and Ryan Hughes stood out for Albury.
Wade 4, Stephen Ceccato (2), Paul Reed, Michael Belland.
Albury 2, David Martin (2)

Tworek torments Umina

THE football was of a good standard for much of this Lake Macquarie Central Coast clash, until the side depleted by injuries finally succumbed in the second-half.

That was the story of the Warners Bay and Umina decider, when the Central Coast champions, Umina, had to take the field with their two top players out through injury.

From the tenth minute onward Warners Bay looked certain victors, but Umina fought all the way.

For the Bay, everything Joel Tworek did showed class and his two goals emphasised this fact. Nathan Ekert, Adam Parker and Clancey Mears gave excellent support.

Caine Kelly, Chris Farlow and Nathan Young were probably Umina's top players.

Warners Bay 4, Joel Tworek (2), David Slee, Clayton Poole
Umina 0
Played at Eleebana Valentine Complex.
Referee: Charlie Stevens.

Humphrys sinks Dubbo

THE South Dubbo versus James Sheehan Area 14 final, in Western NSW, was probably the exception to the other finals.

Tormented by strong and cold winds throughout the match, both sides simply could not get going. Coaches of both sides agreed that their charges left their worst match until the Final.

However, it was James Sheehan from Orange who tipped the scales thanks to two goals by Rhet Humphrys, who was well supported by Neil Smith, Craig Fuller and Tim Davidson.

James Sheehan Catholic High 2, Rhet Humphrys (2)
South Dubbo 0.
Played at Lady Cutler Oval, Dubbo.
Referee: D Hines.

CAMPBELL'S 'GOLDEN GOAL'

Broadmeadow started this Area six final decided favourites, but it didn't take long for them to realise they were in for a torrid encounter.

For ten minutes it was end to end football before tragedy struck the home side. Matthew Cooper broke his arm. and, as a result, the match was stopped for some time.

The rest of the half continued in the same exciting fashion, with the same end to end action.

The second half was similar, with both teams showing excellent skill and commitment.

Full time came and extra-time was called by referee Cooke with the 'Golden Goal' being applied.

Just moments after the half time change over, Forster made the mistake of giving dangerous striker Adam Campbell room to move. And move he did — with a last ditch poke at the ball he pushed it over the line to give the visitors the victory, and set off great celebrations.

Star player points went to Jordan Gorsevski, Adam Campbell and Luke Lawless from The Broadmeadow School, while for Forster High Luke Collins, Rowan St Clair and Ben Cooke stood out.

Forster High.....0
Broadmeadow.....1
Referee: C Cooke

TOPPER TOPPER

BILL TURNER CUP BILL TURNER CUP

TOPPER BILL TURNER CUP RESULTS

ROUND 5

Kadina	2	Kempsey	0

Area Finals:

AREA 14:			
James Sheehan	2	South Dubbo	0
AREA 16:			
Keira	2	Kanahooka	0

Queensland Results:

Ignatius Park	3	Gilroy College	2
Yeppoon	7	Rockhampton	0
Bundaberg	5	Shalon College	0
Maryborough	4	St Pats Gympie	1
St Johns Nambour	2	Coolum	0
Mountain Creek	3	Beerwah	0
Roma	5	Dalby	0
Harristown	3	Centenary Heights	2
Rosewood	2	Bremer	1
Macgregor	3	St Peters	2
Mansfield	8	Redeemer Lutheran	0
Cavendish Road	3	Alexander House	0
Beaudesert	1	Trinity Catholic	0
Arinas	6	Trinity Lutheran	2
Palm Beach Currumbin			6
Kings Christian	1		

ROUND FOUR

Mareeba	1	Tully	0
Mackay North	3	Mackay	0
Bundaberg	3	Maryborough	2
Beaudesert	3	Windaroo Valley	2

Champions emerging from Schools ...

The National Schools Soccer championships kick-off this weekend in Adelaide. Run as part of the Australian Schools Sport Council, the national titles for both boys and girls is an annual event.

Essentially the championships are for Under-20 players with all States and Territories represented. Both boys and girls teams are selected from National Titles.

Later in the year these teams tour overseas. The Schoolgirls will be visiting the USA in December. The tour will include two international matches against the USA U/17s.

A trip to northern Europe was the highlight in December 1996 for the Schoolboys, with games in Wales, Northern Ireland, England and Belgium. The itinerary allowed time to visit a number of well known professional clubs and take in matches at world famous grounds.

The current championships kick-off on Sunday, August 3 and end just six days later. All the action is at Thebarton Oval in Adelaide, where there are plenty of covered spectator facilities.

Some names which later became famous have graced these championships over the last 13 years. How about this for a first eleven based on performance at Schoolboy level:

Pezzano (NSW), Zelic (ACT), Moore (ACT), Yankos (NSW), Vidmar (SA), Tapai (VIC), Crino (VIC), Waugh (NSW), Corica (QLD), Trimboli (ACT), Krncevic (VIC).

If those players need a back up try these:

Schwarzer (NSW), Talia (ACT), Bernal (NSW), Van Blerk (NSW), Horvat (ACT), Phillips (NSW), Bingley (NSW), Bundalo (NSW), Veart (SA), Ollerenshaw (NSW), Katholos (NSW), Polak (ACT).

It even produced **ABSW's** sub-editor, Aidan Ormond!!

Victorian Schoolboys

GOALKEEPERS: Tony Cijmadija, Daniel Petrongolo

DEFENDERS: Enzo De Santis, Peter Grguric, Serdar Pir, Nick Schwal

MIDFIELD: Robert Ardesi, Len Catalano, Tory De Petro, Ivan Perkov, Cameron Piho, Liriam Salievski, Pece Siveski, Steve Vugdelija

STRIKER: Alex Josifovski, Ivan Razov

ACT Schoolboys

Jose Exposito, Sam Pahl, Hassan Adhami, Michael Badman, Brent Chick, Rowan Flanagan, Aaron Golledge, Johnny Golubovic, Robert Grande, Mickey Katz, Shane Lyons, Luke Morgan, Mark Pattrick, Andy Rakic, Mark Smith, Damien Tunney.

Charlie Yankos: from Schoolboy international to Australian Captain.

Oscar Crino: Classy midfielder who represented the Green and Gold at many different levels.

Will any of these 16 emerge as future Australian internationals?

Australian Schools since 1985 have played 35 internationals of which 20 have been won. Just seven losses and eight draws have occurred. The goals ratio is almost 2-1 with 62 for and 32 against.

Chris James is currently in charge as he has been for some time.

In Adelaide there are games every day from about 9:30am, plenty of action, a great deal of talent and future stars on parade.

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WOMEN'S WRITES

BY JANENE MAR

ARDUOUS EURO TRIP FOR MATILDAS

This Friday Australia's women's international squad takes to the skies, bound for Europe, where their month long tour sees them battle against a range of top opponents.

In what is Australia's most challenging of match schedules, in this the strongest of the world's football regions, Coach Greg Brown has the opportunity to test the mettle of his latest combination. With such a variety of opponents, both in level of experience and playing style, Australia's mixture of World Cup players and international debutantes will be able to employ different tactics and strategies, as well as gauge their progress on the world stage.

The Aussies prepare for the challenge ahead, assembling in Sydney tomorrow (Wed) for a two day camp at St George Stadium.

Missing from the group will be midfielder Shelley Youman (unable to make the tour due to a family commitment).

Receiving her call-up as replacement is dynamic attacker Kristy Moore, who will make her debut.

National league top goalscorer with a tally of nine, 20-year-old Moore is known for her powerful direct style, bustling solo runs at defenders and thumping long range shots.

"You have to remember, with Boyd, Hughes and Dunne all unavailable for this tour, we are a little short on strikepower," said Brown. "Coach Kevin McCormack has advised me Kristy has continued her national league form, and this is the perfect chance to bring her in. She probably won't start the first game, but there will be plenty of opportunities for her to find her international feet, so to speak."

The Aussies will contest seven full internationals, with the first match in Hungary against top club side Renova.

European football is also largely a new test for Brown, as he has not witnessed any of them first hand. With most of these teams having contested the recent UEFA Championship finals series, Denmark based team member Alison Forman has provided Brown with numerous video recordings of matches.

With several surprise results emerging from the championship, Brown has taken a close interest in proceedings. Of most note was the demise of World Cup champions and Olympic bronze medallists Norway, who failed at the quarter-final stage. "We've got Norway at the end of our tour, and with all the experience of the games before, I think we'll really give them a go," said Brown.

The touring party is as follows:

Traci Bartlett	ACT
Sharon Black	SA
Lisa Casagrande	ACT/NNSW
Sarah Cooper	ACT/NT
Bryony Duus	USA/QLD
Alicia Ferguson	QLD
Alison Forman	Denmark/NNSW
Sonia Gegenhuber	QLD
Belinda Kitching	QLD
Kristy Moore	SA
Julie Murray	NSW
Amanda Paterson	USA/NSW
Kim Revell	QLD
Cheryl Salisbury	Japan/WA
Bridgette Starr	NNSW
Krysten Swaffer	SA
Anissa Tann-Darby	NSW
Amy Taylor	ACT
Tammie Thornton	QLD
Sacha Wainwright	ACT
Coach:	Greg Brown
Head of Delegation:	Kerry Harris
Assistant Coach:	Kevin McCormack
Assistant Coach:	Connie Selby
Manager:	Sarah Groube
Assistant Manager:	Lesley Mann
Physiotherapist:	Julian Russell-Jones

Kristy Moore: Enjoying her last minute call up to the australian touring party.

Wed 30 Jul	Assemble in Sydney	
Fri 01 Aug	Fly to Sweden	
Wed 06 Aug	Sweden v Australia	*Ostersund*
Fri 08 Aug	Renova FC v Australia	*Budapest*
Sun 10 Aug	Hungary v Australia	*Budapest*
Thu 14 Aug	Netherlands v Australia	*Enhuzen*
Tue 19 Aug	Belgium v Australia	*Brussels*
Sat 23 Aug	Estonia v Australia	*Tallin*
Tue 26 Aug	Finland v Australia	*Helsinki*
Sun 31 Aug	Norway v Australia	*Oslo*

GERMAN MACHINE ROLLS ITALY

The Fourth UEFA Championship has produced more than its share of upsets, with traditional powers falling by the wayside, with new nations emerging. Yet in the end it was the highly experienced Germany who won through.

The first matches of the Championship commenced in September 1995, contested by a total of thirty-four countries in eight groups. Finally whittled down to the top eight, the event climaxed with the finals series earlier this month, hosted by Sweden and Norway. The new eight-team format proved a great success, and was also the first time an event of this calibre has been hosted jointly.

Spain made their debut appearance in the elite group, having knocked out England in the playoffs. Other finals debutantes were France and Russia.

In fact Spain emerged as the surprise packet of the tournament, with France also turning many heads. Both hosts recorded a solid win in their opening encounter — Sweden 2-1 over Russia and Norway running away with a 5-0 victory against rivals Denmark.

Italy sounded a warning of what was in store, coming from behind to draw 1-1 with Germany, despite having a player sent off.

France were disappointed with their 1-1 draw against Spain, failing to convert their many scoring opportunities.

Group A

France 1 Spain 1
Roujas 52 Parejo 14
Player of the Match — Marinette Pichon (Fra)

Sweden 2 Russia 1
Ljungberg 9, Pohjanen 81
Savina 79
Player of the Match — Anna Pohjanen (Swe)

Group B

Germany 1 Italy 1
Meinert 49 Carta 61
Player of the Match — Pia Wunderlich (Ger)

Denmark 0 Norway 5
Pettersen 15, 17, 49, 79; Store 55

Player of the Match — Marianne Pettersen (Nor)

Sweden, with the easiest draw of any of the favourites, guaranteed their place in the semi-finals with a 1-0 win over Spain. However, despite taking the early lead, Sweden struggled to convert their overall domination into a clearer victory over the spirited Spanish.

France — playing a 3-4-3 — carved out more scoring opportunities than any other Group A team, and an Angelique Roujas hat-trick clinched them a 3-1 result to eliminate Russia from the running.

Germany's goalless draw over Norway served to keep Group B wide open, with all four teams still in contention for the semis. The home side found it difficult to create chances against the well-drilled Germans, who dominated the midfield and man-marked at the back. Denmark twice took the lead against Italy, only to concede two equalisers for a 2-2 scoreline.

Spain surprised everyone by staking a spot in the semi finals at their first attempt. Their single goal victory over Russia proved enough to take them through on goal difference, after France conceded three first half goals against frontrunners Sweden. The Scandanavians were impressive, but were helped by some poor French defending. One goal would still have been enough for the French, but chances were squandered. Heroine for Spain was scorer Maria Parejo, who had also scored the vital goal in the 1-1 draw against France on the opening day.

Two Carolina Morace goals for Italy were enough to eliminate tournament favourites Norway in their lively encounter. Only needing a draw to ensure a semi final berth, Norway struck the post in the third minute. An immiedate counter-attack saw Morace beating the keeper in a one-on-one. Then a saved penalty attempt in the second half further sunk Norway's confidence, and Italy scored again in the last minute.

The Italians played five at the back to deny space to the Norwegian strikers, and in attack, exploited the space.

Denmark had the better of play and hit the woodwork, but went down 2-0 to Germany, conceding two late goals.

Italy booked their ticket for the final by solidly beating Spain 2-1 in the semi final. Their victory never looked in doubt after two goals in the first half hour. But Spain refused to throw in the towel and their late reward for a plucky performance was an 88th minute goal to Parejo. The Spaniards were elated with their tournament showing, performing way beyond their own expectations.

In the other semi, Germany were made to fight hard for their 1-0 win over Sweden. Germany always seemed to have the edge, but the yellow and blue's enthusiasm and excellent goalkeeping denied the Germans, until they sealed the win six minutes from time with a superb lob.

The final between Italy and Germany in Oslo was the first time in the history of the championship that a Scandinavian team had not been involved in the final. Although this was the Fourth UEFA Championship, the event was in its 7th season, having played unofficially three times previously. Germany had the runs on the board, having lifted the trophy three times before, with Italy once runners-up in 1993.

In the end, Germany ran out 2-0 winners, their victory never in doubt, and Italian coach Sergio Guenza was quick to acknowledge that "Germany were superior in every department". Germany's coach, Tina Theune-Meyer, was not as convinced, saying "We are good at defending but we do not score sufficient goals. Despite this victory, that is something we have to work on in the future. Apart from that, I feel we always had more resources, and the bigger pitch in Oslo allowed us to use the flanks and open up the game."

Early in the match, Germany's powerful approach work was squandered by some poor finishing. But the deadlock was broken in the 23rd minute when a 35 metre free-kick was fiercely struck home by fullback Sandra Minnert.

Italy made a spirited reply before half time, but their attacking efforts were handicapped by the hamstring injury to star striker Morace. Then the game was sealed just four minutes into the second half, a free-kick attempt rebounding to the feet of Birgit Prinz. The 2-0 scoreline saw the Italians drop, and could never find the pace or power to break through the disciplined German defence, led superbly by sweeper Steffi Jones.

Group A

Spain 0 Sweden 1
(og 5)

Player of the Match: Jane Tornqvist (Swe)

Russia 1 France 3
Grigorieva 53 Rojas 27, 57, 75

Player of the Match: Angelique Rojas

Group B

Italy 2 Denmark 2
Morace 50, Panico 80 Terp 22, Pedersen 61

Player of the Match: Merete Pedersen (Den)

Norway 0 Germany 0

Player of the Match: Steffi Jones (Ger)

Semi-Finals

Sweden 0 Germany 1
Wiegmann 84

Player of the Match: Ulrika Karlsson (Swe)

Italy 2 Spain 1
Fiorini 10, Morace 28 Parejo 88

Player of the Match: Carolina Morace (Ita)

Group A

Sweden 3 France 0
Andersson 18, og 22, Jonsson 45

Player of the Match: Karolina Westberg (Swe)

Russia 0 Spain 1
Parejo 67

Player of the Match: Maria Angeles Parejo (Spa)

Group B

Norway 0 Italy 2
Morace 3, 90

Player of the Match: Giorgia Brenzan (Ita)

Denmark 0 Germany 2
Meyer 82, Prinz 90

Player of the Match: Steffi Jones (Ger)

Final

Germany 2 Italy 0
Minner 23, Prinz 49
Ullevaal Stadium, Oslo
Crowd: 2,221

Player of the Match: Bettina Wiegmann (Ger)

South Australian Soccer

By Val Migliaccio

FROM PAPARAZZI TO SOCCER

Michael Petrillo is blessed with excellent management skills, all for the love of Soccer.

36 year old Petrillo is the successful owner of Caffe Paparazzi at Malvern, a business which occupies 7 days a week and 18 hours a day. Miraculously, in between serving Italian cappuccino and spaghetti, Michael finds the time to spend doing something which in his words, "Keeps me sane!"

Currently, he is the head coach of Adelaide Blue Eagles Under/19 team. The Blue Eagles so far are on track for the Under/ 19 Premier League title as they head the ladder.

Coffee is served: Petrillo (ctr) at his cafe.

He started his playing career as a youngster with Adelaide City's junior teams, with former Australian international goalkeeper Charlie Horvath influencing him in his choice of position, which was keeper.

Married to Gina at just 19 years of age, Soccer took a back seat as the couple established very successful restaurant businesses and raised a family. Michael kept his hand in by turning out for Saturday League Amateur Club, CBC.

At the age of 28 Petrillo returned to Federation Football, in goal, with Enfield City in the 2nd division. He met with influential coach Rocky Aloisi, father of Socceroo John and former Olyroo Ross, who both now earn their money in the professional leagues of Europe.

From that point Petrillo turned his hand to coaching and was in charge of keepers at Enfield for two years, before Bugsy Nyskohus called him up when he became coach of White City's under/23 side. Rocky Aloisi's reign at Campbelltown City saw Michael follow and coach the goalkeepers from 1994 until 1996.

This year dedication has seen him lead the Blue Eagles under/19 side with distinction. "I really enjoy coaching youngsters as they are like sponges, they absorb everything and are willing to learn all about the game." he said.

Over a coffee in Caffe Paparazzi, Michael lamented that "Unfortunately, there are too many distractions for young players. Many who have great ability, leave the game because of outside influences. They come back to Soccer a couple of years later to discover that it is a long time without football and what they had is still there, but a lot harder to do!

"In this day and age, in Australia, the international player drain has carried right down to the juniors. Players now are receiving many more chances than they would have five years ago. As a coach the hardest thing to do is to get young players to focus on the big picture and tell the boys that with hard work and dedication any goal they set out to achieve is obtainable!"

Soccer time for Petrillo is "De-stress time, when all of life's perspectives, all come back, in order for a few hours a week!"

Michael Petrillo is certainly an example of someone who has set goals for himself and obtained them. His philosophy on the World Game and life will only benefit the players he is coaching, and Australian Soccer is better for it. A flaming Sambuca toast to you, Michael Petrillo!

CUMBERLAND OUT "FOX" KINGS!

In the top of the table round 18 State league clash, Cumberland Foxes belted the Croydon Kings 4-1 in a match that could decide promotion to the premier league for the 1998 season. Unfortunately the match, at Bailey Reserve, was played in conditions suitable for mud wrestling!

The Foxes are now four points clear of the Kings, with Elizabeth City now five points adrift. With four rounds to go — and 12 points still up for grabs — the Foxes now meet Elizabeth away, while the Kings take on Port Pirie. A loss for any side will see their hopes of playing premier league soccer next season dimish significantly.

Bailey Reserve hosted a big and parochial crowd that would embarrass some Premier league clubs, and the Foxes followed the script to perfection with a Grand Final atmosphere powering them on.

They started the match with Shane Porter marking former Adelaide City legend Steve Maxwell, and it was big 'Maxie' who had the first clear cut chance in the 12th minute when he was put through with only the Kings goalkeeper George Yatzis to beat, however, the keeper quelled the danger with a brave dive.

The Kings were trying to play good Soccer which the conditions did not allow, and the Foxes' British style of play was the more successful.

In an end-to-end first half, the Kings almost broke the deadlock in the 17th minute when Marco Linsolata found Fontanarosa on the edge of the box, unfortunately his shot didn't have enough power to trouble the Foxes keeper Steve Spencer.

Steve Maxwell's experience caused much trouble for the Kings defence and in the 26th minute, in a magic move, he fooled three defenders on the edge of the box, made room for himself to unleash a pile driver which was well held by Yatzis.

35 minutes in the first half and Cumberland's Matt Bowden found Mark Higham with a 25 metre pass, he turned and volleyed in one movement from the edge of the box to put the Foxes 1-0 up.

The goal rocketed the confidence of the Foxes as they took the lead into the half time break.

The Kings commenced the second half looking slightly rattled and in the 53rd minute Higham broke clear, kept his head to neatly round Yatzis and slotted the ball home for Cumberland to command a 2-0 lead.

Seven minutes later Maxwell scored after a well worked corner, celebrating the goal with the vocal youngsters behind the net.

Croydon quickly replied in the 62nd minute after a goalmouth scrimmage, when substitute Damian Dimella coolly placed the ball into the back of the net for 3-1.

The Foxes still dominated the proceedings and kept peppering the Kings' goals with their direct Soccer wreaking havoc. Two minutes later they scored another goal when Robert Walczynski headed home a corner to wrap up the match for the Foxes 4-1.

This season the rules have changed for premier league promotion with the side who is on top after 22 rounds declared the winner, thus gaining promotion.

There is talk of the Premier league expanding to a ten team competition. It will be interesting to see if the second side — promoted from the State league — is the side that finishes second, or will it be the team that wins the top four play-offs in September? ... only time will tell!

PIRATES TO AMBUSH APACHES

Four matches to go before that time in September. Round 18 of the Smokefree Premier League kicks off this Saturday, with all matches having a bearing on the premiership table.

The Smokefree Match of the Day — $1,000 cash to the winner — travels to Pirate Park where Port Lion Pirates host Salisbury Apaches. The match is make or break for both sides, with the spectre of relegation looming.

The Pirates appear to be safer from the drop, nonetheless, the match will be played like a Grand Final. Last time the sides met in Round 11 the Apaches recorded a 2-0 victory and, given this, could hold a slight psychological advantage.

Eddie Irvine and Bryn Acton, two of the Apaches experienced campaigners, need to influence their younger colleagues if they are to get a result from the match. They have a history of playing to their best when the chips are down and the Pirates could be in for a tough afternoon, with Steve McGregor a prime example of the new breed.

Stuart McKenzie, midfielder of the Pirates, has played his heart out and his attitude could rally his fellow 'shipmates' to a victory. A big crowd should be there to witness the battle of the battlers, with no second prizes for the losers. Tough is an adjective that does not do justice to these proud clubs, and riveting Soccer will be displayed.

At Woodville West, Olympians host the Raiders, who are on a roll in what is shaping up as a possible history making season. The Olympians are hovering in the top four vicinity and their resources will be tested to the maximum against a side which has held them scoreless in the previous two encounters this season. Ayrton Andrioli, coming into the side, has added a fresh approach to the Olympians midfield, coupled with George Kollias who has found the back of the net with a vengeance after a blistering hat-trick against the Apaches a week ago.

Raiders have the best strikers in the league, with big Tony Reeves and the diminutive Luis Rodriguez bagging over 20 goals between them. The supply to the Raiders forward line has come from youngsters Anthony DeGoia, and impressive Adrian Di Lorenzo.

The strength of the Raiders is a combination of total team play and individual brilliance. Goalkeeper Mate Maric's ability to lead the team, is helped by the ever reliable defence of Nick Stamatolopoulos and John Grdovic.

If the Olympians can stop the Raiders with a victory they will come of age in the title quest.

Camden Reserve is the venue for West Torrens Birkalla versus Campbelltown Red Devils. Birkalla have enjoyed one of their most successful seasons in over five years and relish the fact that a victory over the Red Devils will almost certainly place them in the ideal double chance position in the lead up to the finals.

The Barbaro brothers, Joe and Sam, have enjoyed their first season playing together. Joe makes space for Sam to show off his silky ball skills and sharp thinking when in the vicinity of the goals.

Greg Mills' love of the game this season shines through to his team mates and his stout solid defending has contributed a great deal to Birkalla's success.

The Red Devils have blown hot and cold all season and need to play to their strengths. Captain Tony Scalzi has led by example with Duane Dobson showing class with slalom dribbling and hard fighting qualities.

Ric Cerracchio returns to the Red Devils after a well deserved break. He will be the rock and heart of the defence, something which has been missing of late. Second spot could still be up for grabs if the Red Devils can manage to steal the points from Birkalla.

Adelaide Blue Eagles have been hit by a long list of injuries which includes Michael and Joe Berlingeri, Lino Sattin and John Tsalavoutas. Other clubs would have thrown in the towel but Blue Eagles player coach, Zoran Karadzic, still has plenty of knowledge to overcome the hurdles. "We must gain results over the next few matches and slowly we will regain some of the players we have lost and we can challenge again for the championship, which we have won over the past three years in a row." he said.

White City Warriors have had a disappointing season compared to their fantastic 1996 campaign, and rebuilding for next season must be on the cards. Top four is a remote possibility only if the Warriors win all of their remaining matches.

Warriors defender Simon Dacic and goalkeeper Archie Christakos could be in for a busy afternoon trying to fend off the Blue Eagles, who will not give up their crown without a good fight, with the bumpey Adey Reserve playing surface a leveller for both sides.

State League

Round 19

Para Hills v Adelaide City at the Paddocks
Seaford v Noarlunga at Seaford
West Adelaide v Modbury at Golden Grove
Croydon Kings v Port Pirie City at Polonia Reserve
Elizabeth City v Cumberland at Ramsay Park
Plympton v Enfield City at Weigall Oval

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SOUTH AMERICA

— Compiled By Mario Etchart —

Jose Pekerman: The pick of coaches.

Pekerman
MARADONA WAS MY BALLBOY!

Argentine football is living one of its best times after winning the U/20 Youth World Cup for the second time in a row. Meanwhile the senior team is leading the South American 1998 World Cup qualifying rounds after its 2-1 away victory against the former leader Paraguay.

Yet the Youth team, guided by Jose Pekerman — a coach resisted by many when he took over the coaching position — showed the critics that those who trusted him were right.

Pekerman played for Argentinos Juniors, and as coach began his career with the same club. He then moved to Chile in 1991, where he was in charge of Colo Colo's youth teams until 1995.

In that year, the Argentine Football Association (AFA) tempted him to return to guide all the national youths squads.

In 1995, in his first assignment with the U/20 national team, Argentina finished second in the South American championship held in Bolivia. In the same year, Argentina won the U/20 World Championship, played in Qatar, after a memorable 2-0 victory over Brazil.

The same year, the U/17 Argentine team finished second in the South American championship held in Peru, and won the bronze medal in the U/17 Youth World Cup played in Ecuador.

In 1996 in France, the Argentine U/20 finished third in the Toulon Youth tournament, and in 1997 the U/20s won the South American championship, and followed this up with the U/20 World Youth Championship in Malaysia.

Pekerman's record is impressive with youth teams in Argentina, they played 50 matches, won 35, drew 8 and lost 7. They scored 95 goals with a 36 against.

When Pekerman used to play for Argentinos Juniors, one of the ball boys was no other than Diego Armando Maradona, who admires the youth national coach.

Argentinos Juniors, Perkerman's former club, provided the World Champions with six current or former players, Diego Placente, Diego Markic, Pablo Martin Rodriguez, Nicolas Diez, Juan Roman Riquelme (transferred to Boca Juniors for 800,000 American dollars) and Esteban Cambiasso (transferred to Spanish champion Real Madrid for US1.2 million, and the trainer, Gerardo Salorio.

From Argentinos Juniors, one of the most important producers of young talents, also came the captains of all the Argentine U/20 World Cup winning sides, the great Maradona (1979), Juan Pablo Sorin (1995), and Diego Markic and Juan Roman Riquelme (1997).

SOUTH AMERICAN 1998 World Cup Qualifying Rounds

Argentina practically assured a berth in France 98 after its 2-0 victory over Venezuela, in Buenos Aires. Colombia also took a big step with a difficult 1-0 win against Ecuador in Barranquilla.

Meanwhile, Chile also looks a certainty after beating Paraguay 2-1 in Santiago.

At the same time, the chances of Uruguay, defeated by Bolivia in La Paz are very slim. They must win the remaining games against Chile, Ecuador and Peru in Lima, plus get a draw with Argentina in Buenos Aires. A mission almost impossible for the fighting Uruguayans?

HIGHEST SCORERS:

12 goals: Ivan Zamorano (Chile)
6 goals: Marcelo Salas (Chile), Faustino Asprilla (Colombia).
5 goals: Roberto Palacios (Peru), Alex Aguinaga (Ecuador).
3 goals: Eduardo Hurtado (Ecuador), Hernan Crespo, Ariel Ortega (Arg), Marco Etcheverry, Marco Sandy (Bolivia); Aristides Rojas (Paraguay).

NEXT ROUNDS:

ROUND 15: 20/8/97			ROUND 16 10/9/97		
Uruguay	v	Chile	Chile	v	Argentina
Colombia	v	Bolivia	Peru	v	Uruguay
Ecuador	v	Paraguay	Colombia	v	Venezuela
Venezuela	v	Peru	Paraguay	v	Bolivia
ARGENTINA: Bye			ECUADOR: Bye		

DETAILS OF THE 14TH ROUND

ARGENTINA 2 VENEZUELA 0

Crowd: 60,000
ARGENTINA: Roa, Sensini, Ayala (51 Paz), Chamot, Zanetti, Astrada, Simeone, Veron, Gallardo (58 Ortega), Lopez (77 Berti), Crespo.
VENEZUELA: Dudamel, Mc Intosh, Echenique, Rey, Martinez, Diaz (73rd Palencia), Gonzalez, Rodallegas, Miranda, Moran (65 Lucena), Savarese.
GOALS:
Crespo (30), Paz (57)
YELLOW CARDS:
VENEZUALA: Gonzalez and Rodallejas

CHILE 2 PARAGUAY 1

Crowd: 75,000
CHILE: Nelson Tapia, Cristian Castaneda, Ronald Fuentes, Javier Margas, Miguel Ponce, Luis Musrri, Clarence Acuna (81 Cornejo), Victor Castaneda, Marcelo Vega (70 Valencia), Ivan Zamorano, Marcelo Salas (85 Nunez).
PARAGUAY: Danilo Aceval, Francisco Arce, Celso Ayala, Carlos Gamarra, Harles Bourdier, Catalino Rivarola, Estanislao Struway (69th Derlis Soto), Julio Cesar Enciso, Roberto Acuna, Richard Baez (60 Brizuela), Aristides Rojas (46 Cardozo)
GOALS:
CHILE: Ivan Zamorano (8, pen, 51)
Hugo Brizuela (61), PARAGUAY.
YELLOW CARDS:
PARAGUAY: Struway, Bourdier, Arce and Rivarola
RED CARDS:
Brizuela (Paraguay), Castaneda (Chile) (64).

BOLIVIA 1 URUGUAY 0

Crowd: 25,000
BOLIVIA: Carlos Trucco, Sergio Castillo, Oscar Sanchez, Miguel Rimba, Marco Sandy, Ivan Castillo, Ruben Tufino (58 Moreno), Luis Cristaldo, Marco Etcheverry (87 Blanco), Erwin Sanchez, Milton Coimbra (46 Angola).
URUGUAY: Robert Siboldi, Leonardo Ramos (82 Romero), Eber Moas, Hector Rodriguez, Oscar Aguirregaray, Tony Gomez, Gonzalo de los Santos, Marcelo Saralegui, Pablo Bengoechea, Enzo Francescoli (55 Lujambio), Sergio Martinez (74 Da Silva).
GOAL: Etcheverry (75)
YELLOW CARDS:
URUGUAY: Eber Moas, Leonardo Ramos
BOLIVIA: Marco Etcheverry, Milton Coimbra.

COLOMBIA 1 ECUADOR 0

Crowd: 45,000
COLOMBIA: Oscar Cordoba, Wilmer Cabrera, Ivan Cordoba, Jorge Bermudez, Antonio Moreno, Wilmer Perez, Harold Lozano, Carlos Valderrama, Freddy Rincon (64 Pacheco), Faustino Asprilla, Victor Aristizabal (59 de Avila)
Coach: Hector Dario Gomez
ECUADOR: Jose Ceballos, Wagner Rivera, Alberto Montano, Ivan Hurtado, Luis Capurro, Hector Caraball, Jimmy Blandon, Wellington Sanchez, Jose Gavica, Alex Aguinaga, Eduardo Hurtado (58 Graziani).
GOAL: de Avila (87)
YELLOW CARD: Alex Aguinaga

TEAM	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	P
Argentina	13	7	4	2	20	10	25
Paraguay	12	7	2	3	17	10	23
Colombia	13	6	3	4	18	14	21
Chile	12	5	4	3	24	15	19
Bolivia	12	4	5	3	17	12	17
Peru	12	4	4	4	13	15	16
Ecuador	13	4	3	6	16	16	15
Uruguay	12	4	2	6	11	16	14
Venezuela	13	0	3	10	8	38	3

MARCELO SINKS COLO COLO

Cruzeiro of Brazil defeated Colo Colo of Chile, 1-0, in the first leg of the 1997 Libertadores Cup semi finals courtesy of a goal scored by Marcelo.

Meanwhile, Racing of Argentina beat Peruvian champion Sporting Cristal, 3-2, in Buenos Aires. Claudio Ubeda, twice, and Martin Villalonga scored for Racing while Jorge Soto and Julinho netted for the visitors.

The second legs will be played on Wednesday July 30, in Santiago and Lima respectively.

ABSW news in BRIEF

A keen eyed reader spotted a mistake in the Eastern Conference Games article in ABSW of July 22.

University of NSW Commerce student, Sandra Stavrou, informed us that her team finished fifth. They beat University of Canberra 2-0 to secure that position.

The former student of Dez Marton and Goals 2002, certainly knew the result in that game: she scored both goals! Well played Sandra.

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THE man responsible for last season's innovative promotional ideas at Wollongong Wolves, John Denison, has moved on to Sydney United.

Wolf and Gladiator

He accepted the position of General Manager, Marketing and Administration with last season's Ericsson Cup minor premiers.

Good luck in your new challenge, John.

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THE demand for copies of the fixtures for England's Premier League continue to arrive in this office.

Last season the Football Association wanted $650 in order for us to print them. We refused the opportunity then and if the situation is the same for 1997/98, we won't bother.

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GARY Phillips, the recently retired Brisbane Strikers midfielder, has taken up a coaching position at the Queensland Academy of Sport.

Danny Wright is now 'mine host' of Il Mondo Hotel, in Kangaroo Point, Brisbane.

Phillips and Wright along with Alan Hunter, who has transferred to Carlton, were each presented with a framed photograph of the Strikers Grand Final winning team at the club's recent Presentation Night.

They'll be able to mount the photo on their wall to constantly remind them of a fabulous achievement.

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HOW much for Frank Farina's Grand Final kit? At the same special Strikers event it was auctioned for $5,750!

The purchase, on behalf of surveyors Jones, Wright and Associates, went to company Chairperson Dell Townsend.

Farina was player/coach of the team and he scored the first goal in that great Grand Final.

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IT'S surprising how certain schools seem to 'produce' top class players of the World Game. Glendale High School, in Newcastle with Jim Gilbert and Greg Miller as the 'Mr Soccers' of the campus are currently in that category.

Newcastle Topper Breakers last season had Mark and Gary Wilson, Scott Thomas who has subsequently moved to Adelaide City, plus Brad Swancott.

Swancott, the 17 year old goalkeeper who made his Ericsson Cup debut last season, has been called up by Raul Blanco into the Olyroo squad.

Australia's Olympic potentials are on an extended tour of the east coast. See page 4 for the full itinerary.

Frank Farina

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AUSTRALIA wide expansion of the Topper Bill Turner Cup is proving a challenge for the Schools Under 15 tournament organisers.

Western Australia have confirmed that a minimum of 32 schools are ready to enter.

Victoria is proving extremely difficult to penetrate, with the organisation of schools Soccer appearing to be fragmented.

However, eight teacher/coaches covering various areas of the southern state have been contacted. They were appropriately impressed and more enthusiastic when Bill Turner told them that the Australian Secondary Schools Sports Association backed the Cup.

The first Australian Schoolboys overseas tour took place in 1978 to the USA and Canada. Among the tourists were Charlie Yankos, Eddie Krncevic, Peter Katholos and Greg Woodhouse.

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All players, officials, referees and fans of the World Game must have been disgusted by the events which took place in Tamworth recently. Three students from Hurstville High School have been dealt with by a tribunal.

TOPPER

BILL TURNER CUP

Gary Wilson

One is out of the game for 12 months, a second for six months and the third until the end of the season.

These bans extend to all Soccer, school, club, in Australia or overseas.

As Mr Peter Thorne, General Manager of NSW Soccer Federation emphasised in a statement, "such behaviour has no place in sport and will not be tolerated."

The fracas took place after a Commonwealth Bank Cup match which is for Under 18 school teams.

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A REVIEW is taking place of the NSWSF Super League by those clubs participating in it.

SOCCER FEDERATION N-S-W

The idea of the review is to examine just what is required to conduct a successful State based, and superior, competition.

Such requirements as grounds, junior development, finances, marketing and exactly when the competition should be played,summer or winter, are open for examination.

Despite the fact that there is a substantial prize for winning the Super League minor premiership, and a further large sum for the Grand Final winner, the competition is failing to pull in the crowds or attract media attention.

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EARLIER this year Adamstown Rosebud — one of the oldest clubs in Australia — withdrew just prior to the new NSW Super League season.

However, the name has lived on in the NSW Youth League competition. Currently in the combined points table they are in tenth position. At the top are Sydney Olympic with Marconi fifth, Wollongong eighth and Sydney United, who are struggling in the bottom three.

Breakers TOPPER

From 1998, however, Newcastle Topper Breakers will take over their position. The idea is to develop players through the higher standard of Soccer.

The move has not been universally accepted by all Soccer folks in Northern NSW.

Clubs feel that they are robbed of their best players to feed into the 'rival' NSW Youth competition, which is conducted for U/13, U/14, U/15 and U/16 teams.

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YET more players have left Sydney United. This time Ante Moric and Mark Babic have bid farewell to the Pumas.

Moric has joined his former coach, Branko Culina, at Novell Canberra Cosmos. The 23 year old midfielder will add class and experience to the Cosmos team.

Mark Babic

Velimir Kupresak

24 year old Socceroo defender Babic has taken the short journey to Marconi.

Meanwhile, Velimir Kupresak has denied that he is retiring. At 34 he still should have another couple of seasons to offer Sydney United.

With nine first teamers departing, the Pumas new coach, David Mitchell, has a major challenge on his hands.

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BUNDABERG Across The Waves — now there's an original and uniquely Australian name — are doing well in the Queensland Fourex League.

Alan Hunter

They were admitted to the competition only this season and are currently in the top four.

They have Alan Hunter from Brisbane Strikers on loan before he moves to Melbourne and his new club, Carlton.

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CANTEEN is a name which most supporters associate with a tea, coffee, soft drink, pie, lollies and such like, however, it is also the name of an organisation which raises funds for Cancer sufferers.

These cancer patients are young people under the age of 20.

The main NSW Soccer bodies support Canteen through their players who make a small financial contribution through each individual player.

On Friday August 1 at the Sydney Cricket Ground a fund raising luncheon is being held. Tickets are $100 a person for this worthy cause, and it starts at midday.

Tim Webster host of the Channel 10 Sports Tonight program will be MC of the event.

Bookings can be made by calling 02 9629 1800.

A cheque for about $23,000 will be presented to Canteen from the NSW Amateur Soccer Federation. A separate donation will be made the NSW Soccer Federation from their senior teams.

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A NUMBER of long running State wide knock out cup competitions are heading to their respective Finals. They include the Amateur and Robertson Cups.

All Finals are at Cook Park, St Marys, on Sunday August 10 starting from 9am. They will use two pitches lights if necessary.

So if you want a full day of top class competition in the World Game, get out to St Marys.

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SOME readers may have come to the conclusion that making it to Liverpool's ranks was an easy passage for young Nick Rizzo.

That was far from reality. A video tape was professionally produced in Australia. A family friend and very well known Soccer personality, Archie Blue, then sent the compilation to an agent in England.

This agent then despatched copies of the video tape to a number of clubs before anything happened. Four clubs saw something in Rizzo that they liked and eventually invited him for trials, with no commitment.

It took several months for anything to come to conclusion and for Liverpool to offer the teenager a suitable package.

Recently, Rizzo spoke exclusively to ABSW about life at Liverpool.

LIVERPOOL FOOTBALL CLUB

Hunter and Wright

PEVIEW OF BRITISH SEASON

It is the time of year when Stuart and I look at, what we feel, will be the fortunes of the clubs in the coming 1997/98 season. As ever, in our fourth year, we'll be taking a lighter look, provide the information and let you make up your own minds as to whether you agree with us or not.

THISTLE DO — Scotland

PART ONE SCOTLAND DIVISION 3

ALBION ROVERS—'THE WEE ROVERS'

FINISHED fifth last term in a surprisingly strong performance, but need to improve significantly if they're to add to their tally of two championships.

Last Season (LS): 5th, This Season: MB: 5th SJ: 6th

ALLOA ATHLETIC—'THE WASPS'

THE team from Clackmannan Road did exceptionally well in finishing fourth, but as their last championship performance was in 1922, it could well be 2022 before they do it again.

LS: 4th. This Season: MB: 6th SJ: 3rd

ARBROATH—'THE RED LICHTIES'

STONE motherless last, the trophy cabinet remains totally empty, unless you count the 'wooden spoons'. No championship threat, surprisingly?

LS: 10th. This Season: MB: 8th SJ: 8th

Berwick Rangers - 'The Borderers'

Disappointing season in Division Two with only four wins all year. The only English side to play in the Scottish League, will no doubt remain there this year.

LS: 10th in Div 2. This Season: MB: 3rd SJ: 5th

COWDENBEATH—'COWDEN' OR 'BLUE BRAZIL'

ANOTHER poor season in prospect for a side that seems to enjoy the anonymity of lower division 'fitba'. Won't do anything to upset their history this year.

LS: 7th. This Season: MB: 9th SJ: 9th

DUMBARTON—'THE SONS'

FOLLOWING the drop in two successive seasons, they can't go any lower, which is a bonus for their supporter. He, or she, won't be too excited or disappointed this year either.

LS: 9th in Div 2. This Season: MB: 2nd SJ: 2nd

EAST STIRLINGSHIRE—'THE SHIRE'

ANOTHER season of high expectation after their flirtation with the bottom of the league last time out. Can't get a great deal worse but could surprise and finish bottom.

LS: 9th. This Season: MB: 7th SJ: 10th

MONTROSE—'THE GABLE ENDIES'

COULDN'T bounce straight back up at the first attempt. They now know what to expect in Division Three and might enjoy a long stay here unless something dramatic eventuates.

LS: 6th. This Season: MB: 4th SJ: 4th

QUEEN'S PARK—'THE SPIDERS'

A VERY disappointing season. For such an historic club, that belongs in the annuls of footballing history north of the border, didn't do themselves justice. Improvement might be beyond them.

LS: 8th. This Season: MB: 10th SJ: 7th

ROSS COUNTY—'THE COUNTY'

THE County missed out on promotion, solely on goal difference, and going up with their Highland rivals, Inverness Caledonian Thistle. Won't make that mistake again, strong tip for the title.

Last Season: 3rd. This Season: MB & SJ Champions

England Nation wide

DIVISION 3

BARNET—'THE BEES'

LOSING yet another manager will be a further obstacle to overcome in the traumatic season ahead. This north London side will wallow in mid-table obscurity, a shadow of the side they were just a few seasons ago.

LS: 15th. This Season: MB: 12th SJ: 14th

BRIGHTON & HOVE ALBION— 'THE SEAGULLS'

A SIDE without a home and under new financial control. Desperately hoping fortunes on the field, and off, will improve. Steve Gritt, as manager, has been a revelation and will want to steer the ship in the right direction.

LS: 23rd. This Season: MB: 20th SJ: 18th

CAMBRIDGE UNITED—'THE U'S'

DISAPPOINTING and certainly not the side they were when the Premier League was just one game off. Nice town, shame about the team, and perhaps rivals Cambridge City will soon replace them!

LS: 10th. This Season: MB: 13th SJ: 10th

CARDIFF CITY—'THE BLUEBIRDS'

THE Bluebirds have been singing the blues in recent times although they hope to mount a challenge of 1927 proportions, but then again, they probably won't! Should finish in the upper half of the table.

LS: 7th. This Season: MB: 10th SJ: 6th

CHESTER CITY—'THE BLUES' OR 'CITY'

MADE a strong push for promotion last season and have raided the borders in an attempt to gain extra momentum by purchasing Rod Thomas from Carlisle. This team has had more ups and downs than a fiddlers elbow during a violin concerto.

LS: 6th. This Season: MB: 4th SJ: 7th

COLCHESTER UNITED—'THE U'S'

COLCHESTER just missed out on the play-offs, yet again, and seem to enjoy the tag of bridesmaids. Lost their top scorer to Charlton during last season and will miss that punch up front when attempting to mount another serious tilt at the title.

LS: 8th. This Season: MB: 9th SJ: 11th

DARLINGTON—'THE QUAKERS'

THERE are not too many sides who quake in their boots when they are drawn to play Darlo, but this season the fear may return as the side attempt to make their ground, Feethams, a fortress once again.

LS: 18th. This Season: MB: 6th SJ: 17th

DONCASTER ROVERS—'THE ROVERS'

SHOCKER of a season with many hoping they would go down instead of Hereford. Kerry Dixon is the man in charge, but for how long? It could be worse, just can't think of how at present.

LS: 19th. This Season: MB: 23rd SJ: 24th

EXETER CITY—'THE GRECIANS'

A VERY poor year after the high's of the previous 'oh so near' campaign. As someone once pointed out: "Never be in mid-table at the end of the year, always be at the top or the bottom to keep the interest and adrenalin going."

LS: 22nd. This Season: MB: 19th SJ: 20th

HARTLEPOOL UNITED—'THE POOL'

DID the best they can but it's just not all that good. There will not be much to celebrate in the way of victories at the Victoria Ground this season either. Perhaps they need to hang another Monkey?

LS: 20th. This Season: MB: 24th SJ: 19th

HULL CITY—'THE TIGERS'

FINANCES could be looking up this season and there is talk of a new multi-purpose stadium for the team. That would be a shame because where will the fans go shopping if the new stand doesn't have an Iceland Frozen Foods store as part of it?

LS: 17th. This Season: MB: 16th SJ: 15th

LEYTON ORIENT—'THE O'S'

BARRY Hearn's revolution at Brisbane Road is yet to materialise into success on the field. Losing Alvin Martin, to become manager of Southend United, will be a huge blow, although to which one is the question? Will do well to finish in top half of the table.

LS: 16th. This Season: MB: 18th SJ: 9th

LINCOLN CITY—'THE RED IMPS'

JOHN Beck has started the new season by handing out Panadol to the crowd, two boxes covered them, to relieve the pains of play on the pitch and also the headaches he gives people when they try to read his programme notes.

LS: 9th. This Season: MB: 5th SJ: 8th

MACCLESFIELD TOWN—'THE SILKMEN'

NO one knows them in this division so they should enjoy a decent first season in the Football League. Will try to emulate the instant success Wycombe and Wimbledon had when they first entered the competition. Decent, homely little ground, if you can find it!

LS: 1st GM Vauxhall Conf. This Season: MB: 15th SJ: 5th

MANSFIELD TOWN—'THE STAGS'

LITTLE Mansfield Town try hard, bless 'em, but do not seem able to compete financially with some of the bigger boys, even in Division Three. Their style of football makes Sheffield United look like a passing team. Another year of neck-braces ahead.

LS: 11th. This Season: MB: 21st SJ: 23rd

NOTTS COUNTY—'THE MAGPIES'

DISAPPOINTED to have been relegated once again. The side can only think of glories past and of the top flight football they once graced. These 'sleeping giants' simply refuse to be awoken with not too many Prince's around offering a kiss either.

LS: 24th Div 2. This Season: MB: 7th SJ: 3rd

PETERBOROUGH UNITED— 'THE POSH'

BARRY Fry's 'wonder boys' had a BBC crew following them around last season and they'll certainly not be asking for a return visit. Can look forward to a season of consolidation as Fry gets another visit to his favourite side, Barnet.

LS: 21st in Div 2. This Season: MB 3rd SJ: 13th

ROCHDALE—'THE DALE'

A NON-EVENTFUL season, as the one before and the one before that.....One season appears to blur into another at this club, a good relegation battle should clear the cobwebs and kick-start the better times perhaps?

LS: 14th. This Season: MB: 17th SJ: 21st

ROTHERHAM UNITED—'THE MERRY MILLERS'

NOT so merry last term when dropping a division. Class will always tell in the lower leagues and that is why a season of consolidation could be all that is on offer. Unpredictable side that should be the 'bolters' of the division early on.

LS: 23rd Div 2. This Season: MB: 2nd SJ: 12th

SCARBOROUGH — 'THE BORO'

MICK Wadsworth's men pushed for promotion last season before dropping back into the pack late on. Could well do the same again this term although it is unusual for one manager to have survived so long at this Yorkshire coast holiday resort town.

LS: 12th. This Season: MB: 14th SJ: 4th

SCUNTHORPE UNITED—'THE IRON'

NOT quite as hot on the field as their nickname suggests, there is no indication of an improvement in either their name, nor their form. Like the surrounding area, a very flat season in prospect.

LS: 13th. This Season: MB: 11th SJ: 16th

SHREWSBURY TOWN—'TOWN' OR 'THE SHREWS'

RELEGATED last term after staving it off in a tight battle the previous season. A club with high expectations that, more often than not, end up like the ball - in the river next to the ground!

LS: 22nd Div 2. This Season: MB: 1st SJ: 2nd

Barry Fry

Jan Molby

— Part One Continued

— By MICKY BROCK and STUART JONES

Swansea City—'The Swans'

ANOTHER Welsh club in turmoil, Jan Molby has shown he can turn things around. Ideally, need a year before promotion is placed on a solid footing but could battle for top honours this term. Will enjoy finishing above their rivals Cardiff.

LS: 5th. This Season: MB: 8th SJ: 1st

Torquay United—'The Gulls'

LITTLE club, little support, little ambition and even less finance. There have been favourable comparisons to the most famous, if fictitious, hotel in town, Fawlty Towers. Mind you, they must wish they had some Spanish influence in midfield!

LS: 21st. This Season: MB: 22nd SJ: 22nd

Thistle Do - Scotland

Part Two

Brechin City—'The City'

AVOIDED relegation after a pathetic start and will want to improve on that but may struggle to do so. After two seasons in this division, might well be re-acquainting themselves with their former league chums one division down.

LS: 7th. This Season: MB: 8th SJ: 9th.

Clyde - 'The Bully Wee'

Disappointed in finishing fourth. Unlike their once famous sponsors, Wet, Wet, Wet, their form was more like, Drip, Drip, Drip. Could mount a serious challenge, but don't bank on it.

LS: 4th. This season: MB: 6th SJ: 4th.

Clydebank—'The Bankies'

NO Charlie Nicolas last term and it showed. Won only seven matches and drew the same number. The Bankies have been robbed of any success in recent times. The vault will remain bereft of silverware and the I.O.U's will mount further..

LS: 9th in Division One. This season: MB: 2nd SJ: 3rd

East Fife—'The Fifers'

THE Fifers didn't play a happy tune and it's a good bet they can master the art of the 'double drop' when managing just two wins last season. School Report: Can do better!

LS: 10th in Division One. MB: 4th SJ: 10th

Forfar Athletic—'The Loons'

LOONS by name, loonies by nature. Beat off the strong challenge of Ross County to be promoted behind Inverness. Hoping to do better than their last visit to this league, which ended in tears.

LS: 2nd in Division Three. MB: 9th SJ: 7th

Inverness Caledonian Thistle—'The Jags' or 'Blues'

CHAMPIONS of Division Three after all the off-field drama's were laid aside as they put their opponents to the sword. Staying up will be a great boon to this Highland side.

LS: Champions Division Three. This Season: MB: 7th SJ: 2nd

Livingston—'Thistle' or 'The Wee Jags'

MANY expected they would continue their rise into Division One but the wheels fell off late in the year. This term, the hard work begins again in earnest. Strong favourites for the title.

LS: 3rd. This Season: MB: 1st SJ: 1st

Queen of the South—'The Doonhammers'

HAVE gradually improved over the last few seasons but still not quite there yet. Should mount a serious challenge this time out but are equally as likely to fall by the wayside.

LS: 5th. This Season: MB: 5th SJ: 6th

Stenhousmuir—'The Warriors'

HAVE a strong association with Norway for some reason, perhaps an injection of the Viking spirit would help matters. In reality, will need to start the season firing on all cylinders if they're to go for glory and the big move upwards.

LS: 6th. This Season: MB: 3rd SJ: 5th

Stranraer— 'The Blues'

HAVE avoided relegation by one spot for the past two seasons, this year will see third time lucky and the dreaded trap-door gaping wide open. It will be, almost, a miracle if they stay up this time.

LS: 8th. This Season: MB: 10th SJ: 8th.

England Nation wide

Division 2

Blackpool—'The Seasiders'

UNDER Nigel Worthington, the side could perform much better, and certainly their pre-season purchases have been indicative of a positive outlook to the season ahead and a serious assault on the title. Should figure strongly early on.

LS: 7th. This Season: MB: 10th SJ: 4th

Bournemouth—'The Cherries'

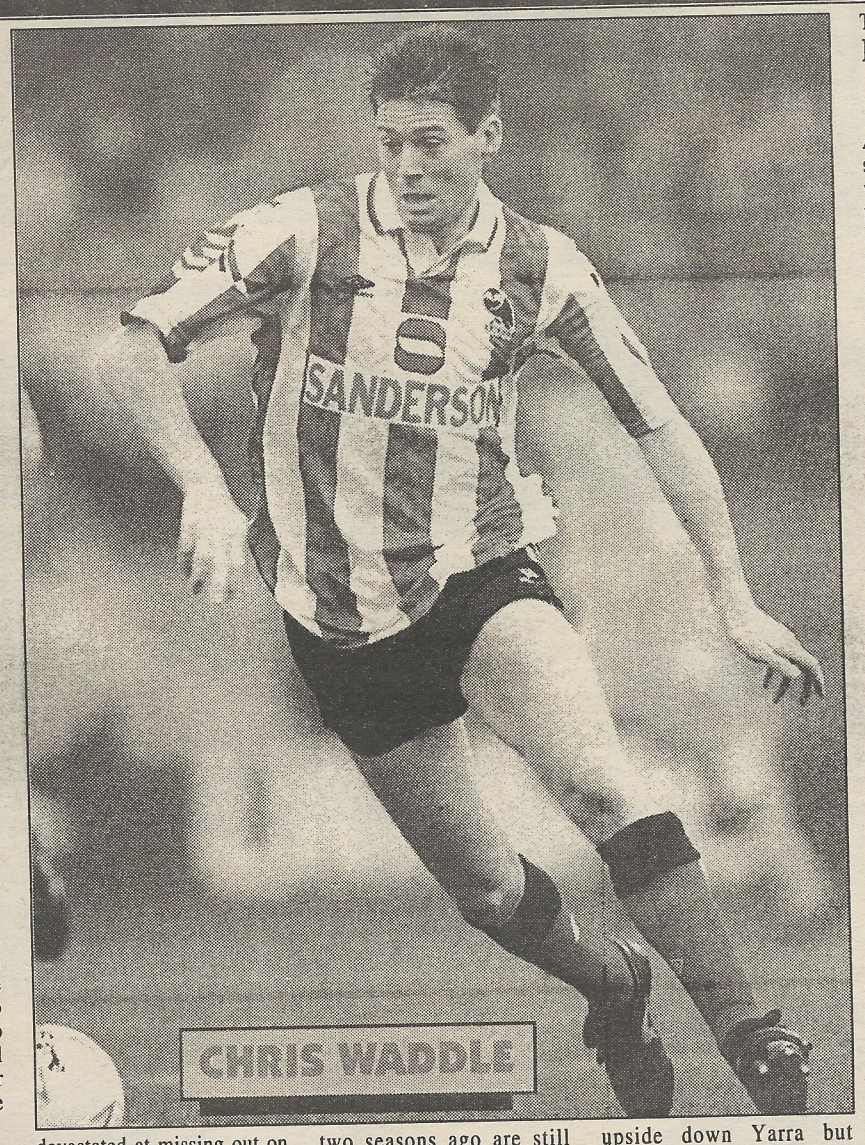
SURVIVED a financial crisis that almost sent the club under. The fans really put their money where their mouth is when helping to rescue the club. Amazingly, the off-field events did not dramatically affect the on-field form and a mid-table finish was unexpected, but gratefully received.

LS: 16th. This Season: MB: 14th SJ: 21st

Brentford—'The Bees'

DAVE Webb's side were devastated at missing out on promotion. The Bees are not buzzing as they should and this season may struggle to perform as well again, although a play-off place is not beyond them.

LS: 4th. This Season: MB: 7th SJ: 8th



Bristol City—'The Robins'

CITY have lost the inspirational Paul Agostino up front and that lack of penetration could cost them dearly. John Ward has ventured into the market place, with little success of note to date. The failure to go up last season may mean a very long stay in Division Two.

LS: 5th. This Season: MB: 11th SJ: 9th

Bristol Rovers—'The Pirates' or 'Rovers'

KNOWN by local city rivals as the "Gasheads", this season could also be the stuff of hot air. Then again, as we all know, hot air rises! Don't underestimate this side, they'll pull off more than a few shocks this term.

LS: 17th. This Season: MB: 9th SJ: 10th

Burnley—'The Clarets'

CHRIS Waddle's journey continues as he takes his first steps into management. Will it be a great step forward or a backward leap, only time will tell. They now have a Rover on Mars so anything is possible, even Burnley winning a few games!

LS: 9th. This Season MB: 6th SJ: 11th

Carlisle United - 'The Cumbrians' or 'Blues'

THE Warwick Way has led back up to Division Two, but the problems that occurred two seasons ago are still evident and the club may struggle. A lack of finance for manager Mervyn Day, doesn't help. Meanwhile, the search for a new Chairman continues.

LS: 3rd in Division Three. This Season: MB: 17th SJ: 18th

Chesterfield—'The Spireites' or 'Blues'

THEIR FA Cup run is now fish and chip wrapping, added to which they've lost a number of their star players, including Simon Davies. Their crooked spire points downwards and this may be reflective of the team's performance this season.

LS: 10th. This Season: MB: 18th SJ: 22nd

Fulham—'The Cottagers'

THEIR controversial millionaire backer is looking to make this team as 'up market' as Harrods, and has spent much money during the off-season. Success can never be bought, and should they start to lose, questions may be asked in Parliament.

LS: 2nd in Division Three. This Season: MB: 22nd SJ: 5th

Gillingham—'The Gills'

UNEXPECTEDLY successful last time out, but a lot of work needs to be done before there can be a repeat performance. The only Kent team in Division Two could soon be the only one in Division Three.

LS: 11th. This Season: MB: 23rd SJ: 20th

Grimsby Town—'The Mariners'

THE Mariners were sunk last term and are looking for a line to be hauled up again. The situation looks as promising as catching a Marlin in the upside down Yarra but they've shown their prowess in the transfer market recently. No great title threat.

LS: 22nd in Division One. This Season: MB: 12th SJ: 7th

Luton Town—'The Hatters'

LUTON have Thorpe and Oldfield up front in one of the most potent attacks in the Division. Looking to improve on last years showing. If they get on a winning run as long as a Lennie Lawrence answer, they will win the title at a canter. Oops!

LS: 3rd. This Season: MB: 1st SJ: 2nd

Millwall—'The Lions'

AWFUL season, with all sorts of stories blowing up Cold Blow Lane, as the crowds continued to shy away. A better offering expected for one of the 'bigger clubs' in the lower leagues. Far greater potential to do better. Certainly 'play-off' material.

LS: 14th. This Season: MB: 5th SJ: 6th

Northampton Town—'The Cobblers'

SURPRISE packets of Division Three, resulted in the winning of the play-off final. Sixfields is certainly a fantastic stadium but whether they can put a team together, like they did during their Southern League days, is another matter altogether.

LS 4th in Division Three. This Season: MB: 24th SJ: 24th

Oldham Athletic—'The Latics'

NEIL Warnock finally tasted defeat after so many successes moving teams up the leagues. He will not take this lying down and despite financial restrictions, will motion his team upwards once more.

LS: 23rd in Division One. This Season: MB: 15th SJ: 3rd

Plymouth Argyle—'The Pilgrims' or 'Argyle'

A POOR season by Argyle standards and not one they wish to repeat. Will not enjoy the long hauls to Preston, Blackpool or Carlisle either. Not so much 'Pilgrims Progress' as another year of struggle envisaged.

LS: 19th. This Season: MB: 21st SJ: 19th

Preston North End—'The Lilleywhites' or 'North End'

THE season was a non-starter for a team that had so much potential on paper. Perhaps their 'History of Football' museum should move a few of the current players off the pitch and into the display cases!!

LS: 15th This Season: MB: 8th SJ: 16th

Southend United—'The Shrimpers' or 'Blues'

PERHAPS 'Shrimpers' should be exchanged for 'Minnows' as the side struggle against a strong backwash that's pulling them downwards. After a meteoric rise in the late 1980s, their decline is just that much harder to take.

LS: 24th in Division One. This Season: MB: 4th SJ: 17th

Walsall—'The Saddlers'

THEY could sing 'Tenterfield Saddler' as it is about as close as Walsall are going to get to promotion! Management turmoil inside Bescott Stadium will again see the trophies pass them by, heading elsewhere up, or down, the M6.

LS: 12th. This Season: MB: 20th SJ: 23rd

Watford—'The Hornets'

UNHAPPY at not bouncing straight back up, the old Graham Taylor/Elton John combination has been reformed to bring back the successes of the early 1980s. As one fanzine title suggests: "clap your hands, stamp your feet" could be the order of the day for the supporters.

LS: 13th. This Season: MB: 16th SJ: 12th

Wigan Athletic—'The Latics'

THE Latics did a great job in winning the Division Three title last season. With the added bonus of financial backers trying to build them into a side as prosperous as the town's Rugby League team, they could do worse than settle for mid-table obscurity this term.

LS: Champs Div Three. This Season: MB: 19th SJ: 13th

Wrexham—'The Robins'

THEIR cup run ruined a league campaign where it was expected the champagne corks would be popping. Have managed to hang on to Bryan Flynn so far and things look promising in what well prove to be a successful year for Welsh sides in England.

LS: 8th. This Season: MB: 2nd SJ: 1st

Wycombe Wanderers—'The Choirboys' or 'Blues'

SINCE they burst onto the scene so dramatically, the last couple of seasons have been very upsetting for the Adams Park faithful. They are a team that will either set the league alight or finish as also-rans, as our predictions reflect?

LS: 18th. This Season: MB: 3rd SJ: 14th

York City—'The Minstermen'

AN old Roman town whose soldiers would probably play better than the current crop, and they have been dead for many, many centuries. Without being too cruel, they are expected to win it all, this time out.....naff all, that is!

LS: 20th. This Season: MB: 13th SJ: 15th

— Next Week: England and Scotland Division's One

Graham Taylor

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

A TEAM FROM ASIA WHO COULD POSSIBLY BE AUSTRALIA'S FINAL HURDLE ON THE WAY TO FRANCE 98